

## *Putting Burn Foundation (S.A.) (Western Cape) On The Map*

We believe that Burn Survivors with visible physical defects should be recognized as being disabled, especially those survivors who have suffered amputations, and are visibly scarred as a result of burn injury.

They should be entitled to financial assistance as legislated, and be given empathetic consideration when job opportunities are available.

Burn Survivors who have suffered severe burn injuries have special needs.



We registered the Burn Foundation (S.A.) within the Western Cape Network on disability, and we have been accepted as a member with in the Network, along with some 70 other NGO's and Homes for the disabled.

Although the Network and its members are recognized by the authorities, there is still so much that the Government can do to assist the disabled to live a respected life. It is generally felt that the authorities have been very tardy with its responsibilities towards the disabled, and therefore a big March to Parliament was organized to create awareness for which we were invited for the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Our biggest challenge was to have a decent banner and posters made.



At short notice, our friend Ivan Charles of Turfhall Cheshire Homes, was able to arrange our very first Banner and various posters, which were ready for collection on the morning of the March.

**Thank you Ivan**

Meanwhile, our volunteers contacted some Burn Survivors, who had attended Camp Protea, and arranged for a Taxi to take them to a meeting point. There were 10 Burn Survivors, including two adult Survivors, who volunteered to carry **our banner with pride.**

We walked up Darling Street, to the military march of the Police band. The city Police controlled the traffic, giving us the right of way, along Adderley Street, to the stares of thousands of onlookers, and in the face of flashing cameras of the Media, and hence to the Parliament gates, where Ivan Daniels Chairman of the network handed over a Memorandum on behalf of the



disabled and Gert Eksteen Regional Director of Burn Foundation Western Cape handed separate Memorandums on behalf of Burn Survivors to the representatives from the Offices of:

- 1) The **President** of South Africa
- 2) The **Premier** of Western Cape
- 3) The **Mayor** of the City of Cape Town.

After a juicy Hamburger and a bottle of fresh orange juice, supplied by the Network, we were on our way home, to plan for our next event, the International Day on Disability due 10 days later.

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Blessings

Gert and Mary

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