

BLS TASKFORCE REPORT 2022.

As we come to the end of 2022, one of the highlights, specifically for South Africa, was the lifting of the Covid restrictions and a tentative return to 'normal.' Although Covid is still very present, there has been a positive and steady increase in training for RCSA Instructors as seen in the BLS stats.

BLS Stats: The various AHA Basic Life Support Courses presented 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022, indicate a steady rise in people trained/courses presented:

New Instructors: 195 trained.

BLS Faculty: 41 registered members (the increase in Faculty by an additional 11 members, further assists with keeping up with the growing no. of Instructors.)

BLS courses: 17 865 people trained.

Heartsaver courses: 1 572 people trained.

Family and Friends courses: 2534 people trained.

National Faculty: Now up to x12 members.

Updated Instructor Material: As indicated at the previous AGM, March 2021 saw the release of the new AHA material in South Africa, with its own set of challenges. These seem to have been mostly resolved and Instructors are adapting to the changes. Instructors are encouraged to ensure that they have current, updated 2020 AHA Instructor manuals for each specific discipline they teach. This material has been available since early 2021 and to date is an ongoing problem for the office, with a number of Instructors being deregistered this year either due to unpaid Instructor fees and/or not having current Instructor material. As a reminder, this material is individual to each Instructor and cannot be shared. Instructors without the current 2020 updated material, cannot teach nor will they be updated until this has been resolved.

USB Flash drives for the RCSA Local courses are needing to be updated by either the Office or Faculty when Instructors are being re-monitored.

Atlas: At the end of 2021, the new ATLAS website was released, also with its own set of issues, some of which have yet to be resolved. This site remains problematic with many Instructors and TC's having ongoing issues with e-certificates, largely due to the fact that the certificates are issued into the TC's 'wallet.' We are still working at trying to find a solution to allow for individual Instructors to issue their own e-certificates. To date, detailed instructions have been sent out to Instructors and it is essential that these are followed exactly, step-by-step as directed - missing any steps will prevent e-certificates being issued and lead to unnecessary frustration. Instructors need to first register themselves on this system and should be able to request assistance from their specific TC coordinators first, if they are experiencing any difficulties. If they are then still experiencing problems, to approach the RCSA offices for further assistance.

Updated Policies and Documentation: This year it was necessary review and update some of the policies, documentation as well as the RCSA Instructor pack, which all existing Instructors are recommended to order, so as to keep themselves updated of ongoing changes. Also, as indicated in the previous AGM minutes, this can be ordered from the RCSA offices as a printed pack or emailed in an electronic format.

Policy #19 (Accreditation of Instructors from other AHA ITC'S) has been updated, and the following two new policies have now also been added:

Policy #36 (RCSA/AHA Training provided outside South Africa) and

Policy #37 (Assessment Policy)

The Instructor Assignment has also been reviewed and updated for re-monitoring Instructors (replacing the questions on the RCSA Covid recommendations.)

Covid Recommendations: These have been reviewed and although many are no longer required, whether to still continue with some, has been left to the Instructors discretion.

Continuation of Instructor Updates: Feedback received re: Instructor updates was extremely positive, and these 'work-shops' held as *an alternative to the* traditional re-monitoring exams appeared to be beneficial to all who attended. As a result, the idea is to continue with presenting these for our Instructors to attend each alternate year with new and relevant topics. The Covid related discussions will be replaced with possible alternatives i.e. Atlas related issues and how to run the 'TEAMS' section of the BLS/CPR for Professionals course.

Submission of Stats: This has gone smoothly, and those not submitting timeously have been dealt with and fined and/or deregistered.

Feedback Devices: AHA has indicated, that including a feedback device as part of training is now an International standard, and as such RCSA and the Instructors will have to align and include this during training. This will possibly be implemented during 2023 and although it is uncertain at this stage whether it will be internal or external devices that will meet all the requirements, RCSA will not mandate this as yet, until the exact specifications have been made available. Although RCSA cannot recommend any specific device/s, Instructors will need to be advised as to which are suitable and which are not. Currently these devices are costly and not necessarily as effective on manikins as on humans and there is the consideration to have an option of an external feedback device which would benefit Instructors with older manikins that cannot/do not necessarily have the option of an upgrade. This is currently being investigated with trials being run on specific devices before recommending anything to the Instructor network.

Gratitude: To the unsung heroes that work tirelessly 'behind the scenes,' our grateful thanks to the office staff and additional personnel. Without their ongoing support the office could not run as smoothly.

Linda Kloeck, an integral part of the Council, is ever present and supportive irrespective of the issues/problems that arise and a strong shoulder to lean on – thank you!

To the National Faculty for their input and participation on problems/issues or decisions that have needed to be addressed during the course of the year and to Darren van Zyl who remains very involved in the various RCSA and EXCO activities for his continual support, advice and enthusiasm throughout the year. His practical, non-biased approach is truly appreciated.

On behalf of both Kyleigh and myself, many thanks to the Instructor network for the opportunity to allow us, as the BLS Faculty to speak out and address the various issues on your behalf and guide you through 2022.

With Grateful Thanks

René Irons and Kyleigh Rodrigues

ADVANCED CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT (ACLS and ACLS EP) TASK FORCE REPORT

The AHA released the new updated guidelines October 2020. Like BLS and PALS instructors, ACLS and ACLS EP instructors all had to complete the AHA online updates by the end of November 2020 to familiarise ourselves with the new guidelines and how to teach it. The 2020 guidelines ACLS manuals were available in South Africa from March 2021 and all ACLS training centres started using the new manuals. The ACLS manual layout is more orderly and makes more sense than ever before. It starts with chapters on AMI's, stroke, bradycardias and tachycardias and therefore the focus on how to prevent cardiac arrest. The last chapters are on cardiac arrest and post resuscitation care.

The AHA do not plan to update the ACLS EP textbook before 2025.

The Resuscitation Council presented 2 ACLS instructor courses in 2021 and one ACLS EP instructor course. One ACLS Instructor course was presented May 2022. 90% of the instructor candidates were successfully monitored. The instructor network keeps growing. 2 New faculty members also followed the process to extend the ACLS faculty.

Training statistics

ACLS EP Faculty 10

ACLS EP Training centres 8

ACLS EP instructors 26

ACLS EP candidates trained in Jul '21-Jun '22: 332 vs 274 the previous yr

ACLS Faculty 11

ACLS EP Training centres 24

ACLS instructors 96, including the 10 new ACLS instructors trained and monitored in 2022

ACLS candidates trained in Jul '21-Jun '22: 4108 vs 2627 the previous yr

Dr Anita Groenewald, well known to most of us for the last 20 years as AHA and Resus Council instructor, steps down as BLS, ACLS, ACLS EP and PALS faculty member and instructor at the end of this year. She also served as Resus Council EXCO member since 2014-2021. Anita, you have been a loyal, hardworking, caring doctor and instructor for many years. We thank you and honour you for your passion and dedication to resuscitation and emergency care in South Africa. Blessings for the next phase of your life.

Carin Claassen

Resus Council EXCO member ACLS/ACLS EP

PAEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (PALS) TASK FORCE REPORT

The AHA released the new updated PALS guidelines October 2020. The 2020 guidelines PALS manuals were available in South Africa from April 2021.

The PALS EP course is not an official AHA course but because of the high standards of the Resus Council of SA, the PALS EP course was introduced by Dr Dave Kloeck. Because of the great demand and success of this course, Dr Dave Kloeck intend to grow the PALS EP instructor presenters for 2023 by involving specialized paediatricians.

The Resuscitation Council presented 1 PALS instructor course in 2021 and one PALS instructor course October 2022 with 9 candidates attending. The instructor network keeps growing. 3 New faculty members also followed the required process to extend the PALS faculty.

In December another PALS training centre will be monitored to add to the existing 11 centres.

Training statistics

PALS Faculty 10

PALS Training centres 11

PALS instructors 40

PALS candidates trained 1491

PEARS, an easier version of PALS, to accommodate nursing staff is currently presented by more PALS training centres. For more information on the PEARS see the Resus Council's website.

Johann Claassen

Resus Council EXCO member PALS

LOCAL TRAINING TASKFORCE REPORT 2022.

The BLS Faculty oversees both the AHA BLS and Local RCSA basic courses and thus the same information regarding documentation, policy changes etc. is generally applicable to both, with the added specific information below relevant to the Local courses.

The Advanced CPR for Professionals course, as discussed at the 2021 AGM was launched and some of the Advanced Life Support TC's have started teaching this.

All Local course manuals and presentations were updated as per the 2020 ILCOR guidelines and Instructors are encouraged to ensure their USB Flash drives are updated (at no additional fee) either with the office or with the Faculty member when re-monitoring.

Posters are still available at the office of the RCSA Local Algorithms are (at no additional cost) or alternatively, the downloadable alternative on the RCSA website.

Stats for Local Courses: As already mentioned in the BLS taskforce report, with the easing of the Covid restrictions, there has also been a steady increase in training, and this also applies to the Local courses.

The various Local Courses presented 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022, indicate a steady rise in people trained and courses presented:

Local RCSA Instructors only (not linked to AHA): 89

Local RCSA TC's only (not linked to AHA): 3

CPR for Professionals courses: 6188 people trained.

CPR for Everyone courses: 2711 people trained.

First Aid Essentials courses: 2005 people trained.

As part of the BLS Faculty, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all Instructors that are promoting and teaching the local material.

With Thanks,

René Irons and Kyleigh Rodrigues

Task Force Report: Media and Marketing

Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa

Aldus Smith: 14 November 2022

Feedback regarding Media for the year of 2022 to date

Facebook

- For the year of 2022 to-date the RCSA have reached 47807 people on the Facebook platform. 51.2% of the likes are from female participants.
- The post that reached the highest reach was on posted on the 15th of May, based on international EMS week. This post had 271 reactions, 15 comments and 90 shares and a total reach of 12509 people.
- Our Facebook page is 2398 likes strong.

Please support our Facebook page: [Resus Southern Africa | Facebook](#)

Instagram

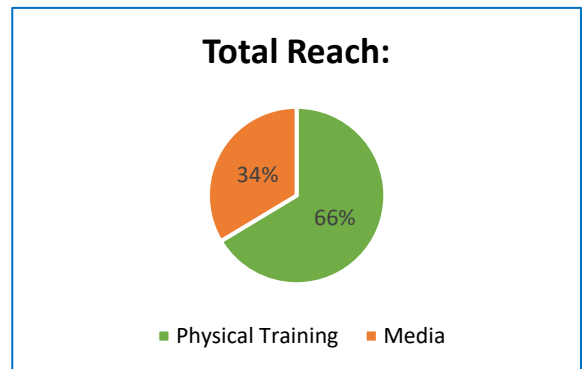
- Our Instagram account: @resuscouncilsa currently has 1032 followers
- The last 90 days we had a reach of 876 profiles.

Please support our Instagram page: [@resuscouncilsa](#)

WRAH-Month Statistics

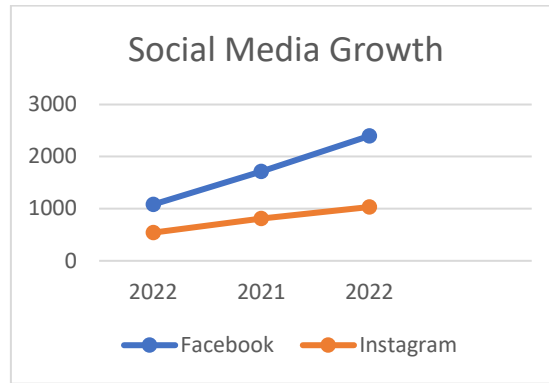
- During the month of October, the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa (RCSA) reached many hands and eyes.
- The RCSA with tremendous support from large roles players are happy to announce that we have reached **101554 individuals**.
- A breakdown of the reach below:
 - **34150** individuals reached via media and **67404** by means of physical training which included demonstrations and or physical training courses.
 - The largest contributor to the stats was: National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) with numbers of **56209** of the total reach

By the end of October 2022, we had received feedback from 45 TC's in total. Any numbers submitted after this date will be added to the final stats to be submitted for a formal ILCOR report in the next month.



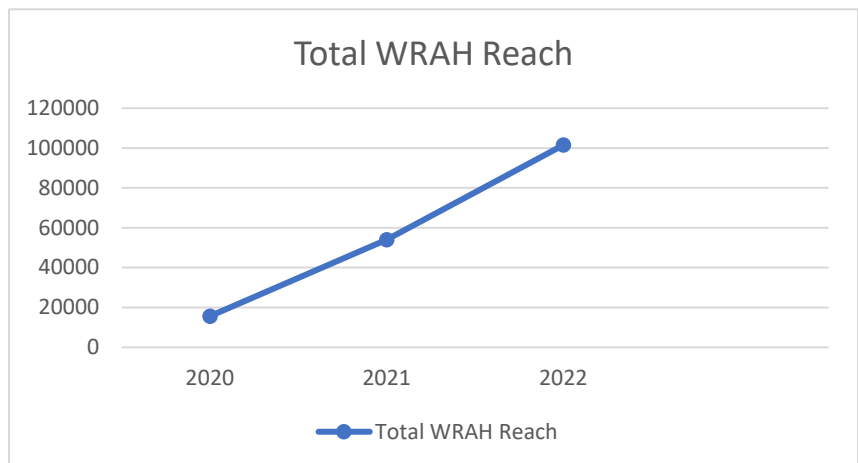
Retrospective comparison: Social media Accounts

Platform	Handle	2020	2021	2022
Facebook	@ResusSouthernAfrica	1081	1715	2398
Instagram	@resuscouncilsa	541	808	1033

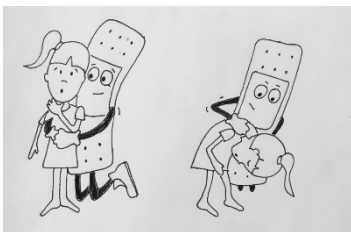


WRAH Statistics

	2020	2021	2022
Social Media	12604	17782	34150
Training	3066	36198	67404
TOTAL:	15670	53980	101554



First Aid – Task Force report



This year we have concentrated on the development of an interactive, age-appropriate program and manual aimed at Grade 5,6 & 7 children –

When one considers the vast number of children who are left with nannies or older siblings (and some even on their own) while their parents are working, it is of utmost importance to equip these children with the basic tools to be able to help themselves and those around them in an emergency. These are life-skills that will stand them in good stead in various areas of life.

Currently a first draft of the manual will be ready for submission to EXCO this week, Linda has received and gone through the course contents, advised on manual design and has seen some of the proposed illustrations.

I am hoping to finish this year strong with Version A of the manual including the instructor notes. The instructor notes include Module objectives, preparation required, outcomes, activities and instructing notes per activity.

Looking forward to getting a well-structured, standardized program (RCSA endorsed) specifically designed for children out to our instructor network so RCSA can expand the current portfolio aimed at adult education.

Hayley Rosenthal

Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa
Chairman's Report 2022

It gives me great pleasure to report on the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa for the 2022 year.

You have heard the Task Force reports, and undoubtedly, this year has seen a massive amount of work at all levels.

Rene and Kyleigh have managed the BLS Portfolio with aplomb. I have to thank you both for the enormous amount of work that has gone into updating the Instructor Materials – this is a huge job, and I honestly thank you for giving up your precious time for the Council in this regard. When one considers that nearly 18 000 candidates have been training in BLS, together with approximately 4000 in Heartsaver and Family and Friends, one can see that the constraints of Covid are over and we are proudly moving forward. Our local courses, which are the backbone of the finances of the Council showed figures over 10 000 candidates trained. Nearly 32 000 CPR Providers have been trained. Well done our Instructor network. My thanks to Darren van Zyl who works behind the scenes on many levels, and is custodian of our Policies and Procedures.

Our Restart a Heart programme, as mentioned by Aldus, reached over 100 000 candidates. This was a huge number of new CPR Providers trained. We need to thank the National Sea Rescue Institute for their massive support in this initiative.

Dr. Carin Claasen took over the ACLS portfolio. Under her guidance and her vast knowledge of this discipline, she has guided and clarified areas that have been overlooked in the past, and I thank her for her input into this area of the Council. I too would like to thank Anita Groenewald for her very much appreciated input into the Resuscitation Council over the past 7 years, and wish her everything of the best with her future plans.

Thank you Oom Jan for taking over the PALS portfolio. Again, the entire PALS group has been overhauled and I appreciate your management of this task force.

Our Advanced CPR local course is gaining momentum. I think we need to clarify two courses which are underutilised because I believe that their target audience is not understood. Nurses and allied staff who are employed in the ED domain generally need to participate on the AHA ACLS or PALS courses. On these courses they learn advanced life support skills and the interpretation of ECGs. The Advanced CPR and the PEARS courses are aimed at nurses and allied workers who are more ward based or clinic based. These courses teach the early recognition of critical situations where ECG recognition is not available or required. We have had a lot of enquiry regarding these two courses lately, and I thought that clarification would help in your choice of course taught.

Aldus presented our media stats and I am excited to see how our reach is growing. A reach of over 12 500 persons in International EMS week is astounding.

One of the projects dear to my heart is the Introduction of First Aid Training into the Life Skills curriculum at schools. Thank you Haley for the work you have put into the manuals and the really child-friendly pictures you have had designed. We look forward to the complete project. Should any of you have an in with the Department of Education in this regard, we would be most grateful, as reaching the right person has proven a difficult challenge.

From a financial point of view, the Resuscitation Council has recovered from the previous year's Covid losses. We have in fact absorbed the huge Rate of Exchange losses that we have experienced over the past year, as well as only passing on 5% of the AHA increase, the increase in freight (due to the Ukraine crisis) and the general increases in printing costs. Linda managed to negotiate good prices on the print materials stating all the costs incurred in bringing in the physical manuals, but we had to pay the increased prices on the e-materials, parts of which the Council absorbed. We also have had difficulties clearing goods through customs resulting in us having to pay storage costs whilst the customs officials delay the release of the cargo. We anticipate a 7.5 – 10% increase in January, depending on the state of the Rate of Exchange and other external factors. The council remains in a sound financial position.

I, as chairman, cannot even start to thank this committee who have stood behind me this year. It has been a very difficult year for me from a work perspective due to staff shortages and increased after hours working. I must start by thanking my wife and family for standing by me and encouraging me in all my endeavours. Secondly, Neil, may I extend my sincere thanks for stepping into the meetings at no notice when I have been unable to leave the hospitals for work commitments. I really do appreciate you, and thank you. Neil, Kathy, Rene, Kyleigh, Hayley, Aldus, Carin and Oom Jan : I could not have been chairman of this committee if it had not been for the hard work and resolve that each of you has played in making the Council successful this year. I salute and thank you all!

And then the Cindereallas! Behind every successful organisation there are a group of unsung heroines who keep the fires burning and the business running on oiled wheels. Lorraine, Veronica, Florinah and Julia – although you are in the background, know that you are so appreciated and we value each of you for your individual inputs. Thank you!

Finally, thank you to every Instructor and member of the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa. We look forward to another successful year breaking new horizons.