

**To: Ms Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko**

MEC Social Development Gauteng

Department of Social Development – Gauteng

By email: [Nomantu.Nkomo-Ralehoko@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Nomantu.Nkomo-Ralehoko@gauteng.gov.za)

**To: Ms Phumla Sekhonyane**

Head of Department (Acting)

Department of Social Development – Gauteng

By email: [mpho.hlobelo@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:mpho.hlobelo@gauteng.gov.za)

**From:**

Solidarity Social Workers' Network

1 June 2026

**RE: Concern regarding the delays of funding to caring organisations for older persons in Gauteng – Pretoria Care for the Aged (PCCA) / Silwerkroon Home-based Care**

**Dear Mss Nkomo-Ralehoko and Sekhonyane**

We hereby wish to express our concern regarding the delay and ongoing uncertainty surrounding funds allocated to organisations providing essential services to older persons in Gauteng.

Solidarity has been informed by our members at **Pretoria Care for the Aged (PCCA) and the Silwerkroon Home-based Care Programme** that Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have not yet been received, and that funding has not yet been approved, even though services must continue to be rendered without interruption.

Organisations caring for older persons do not merely provide supplementary support services; they form an integral part of the primary protection network for one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. The consequences of delaying or withholding this funding are already being felt directly by the employees of these organisations *and* the older persons who depend on these organisations for essential services, such as:

- social work;

- nutritional support programmes;
- home-based care;
- psychosocial support;
- protection services;
- medication and health monitoring; and
- interventions relating to abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

The reality is that many of these organisations are currently operating on the brink of operational collapse. Staff are being forced to scale down services, reduce caseloads, and, in some instances, terminate services entirely due to the absence of sufficient financial resources.

As service providers, these organisations find themselves in an unsustainable ethical position, where professional obligations remain in place, yet their practical ability to provide safe, continuous, and sustainable care is being severely undermined by the lack of funding.

We wish to state clearly that:

- the delay or non-payment of funds does not eliminate the need for services;
- older persons do not become less vulnerable because subsidies are delayed or withheld; and
- the pressure currently being placed on NPOs creates a direct and unacceptable risk to the safety, health, and dignity of older persons.

The consequences of this situation already include:

- an increased risk of neglect of older persons;
- limited access to social work services, with an observable decline in such services already taking place;
- reduced monitoring of high-risk cases;
- increased pressure on families and communities;
- staff burnout and the loss of skilled professionals; and
- the possible complete closure of essential community-based programmes.

In light of the seriousness of this matter, we therefore urgently request that the department:

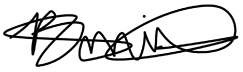
- provide clear communication regarding the status of funding;
- implement an immediate intervention plan for organisations rendering critical services to older persons, should funding be withdrawn or further delayed;

- provide transparent timeframes regarding outstanding payments and funding allocations;
- facilitate meaningful consultation with affected service providers; and
- develop a sustainable plan to protect continuity of care for older persons.

We make a serious appeal to the Department to recognise the severity of this crisis. When structures caring for older persons become destabilised, the consequences do not only affect organisations and the employees who work there—they affect vulnerable older persons, many of whom have no alternative support systems available to them.

We trust that this matter will receive the urgency and priority it deserves, and we respectfully request a written response setting out the Department's position and intended interventions within the next seven (7) days.

Yours faithfully,



**Bianca Smit**

Coordinator

Solidarity Social Workers' Network