

6 April 2020,

Dear ChildSafe Board Members,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Prof Sidney Cywes passed on this morning early. He always was a true visionary.

Observing the large and growing toll of child injury death, the progressive nature of childhood injuries and the frequently long-lasting effects of injury on children he was the driving force behind the creation of the Child Safety Center in 1978 and the subsequent establishment of the “Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa” at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital in 1987.

The aim of the organization is to create a safer world for children and its major programs include research, education and advocacy. Since 2008, known as “ChildSafe South Africa”, it is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the world and labours to keep kids free from harm.

It is a remarkable feat that ChildSafe South Africa recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

While local, regional and national echelons of government have been rather sluggish to promote child safety, ChildSafe, through its numerous projects and advocacy has convincingly argued that children’s rights have been, and continue to be, significantly violated because South Africa’s most vulnerable little citizens are daily exposed to unacceptable levels of environmental dangers.

ChildSafe South Africa therefore aims to reduce and prevent childhood injuries and has grown into the major role-player in child safety at local, regional and national level.

Prof Cywes was awarded the ChildSafe Lifetime Achiever Award in 2018. The children in and around South Africa have much to be grateful to him.

Sebastian van As



Chair: ChildSafe National Board)