

# Resumé – Curriculum Vitae

---

**Name:** Patricia Anne Allen (Pat)

**Address:** 800 Highwood Avenue, Faerie Glen, Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa.

**Postal Address:** As above.

**Cell Number:** 082 683 9292 (preferred contact, or email)

**E-mail addresses:** [Pat@prodrive.co.za](mailto:Pat@prodrive.co.za)

**Certification:** All certificates available on request.

- a. 1979 – Qualified as an advanced driver with the IAM (Institute for Advanced Drivers).
- b. 1979 - Qualified as a driving instructor.
- c. 1979 to 1988 – First driving school, “Econodrive”, in Springs, Brakpan and Nigel.
- d. 1981 - “Woman Driver of the Year” for the Institute for Advanced Motorists and General Tyres.
- e. 1988 until 1992 - Second driving school – “East London Driving Academy” - in East London.
- f. 1989 - Refresher advanced course with the IAM.
- g. 1989 – Qualified as an instructor for the Institute for Advanced Motorists in the Eastern Cape.
- h. 1992 – Opened my third driving school when we moved to Pretoria, and called it “Learn to Drive” Driving School,
- i. 1999 to 2009 - Regional Chairperson for SAIDI Pretoria/Tshwane. (The Southern African Institute of Driving Instructors).
- j. 2002 – to date – Presents driving instructor training workshops on request, since no official training is available. Many people have opened their own driving school since their training, mostly men but some excellent women instructors too.
- k. 2008 – DVD to assist all learner drivers to pass their K53 driving licences, even if they can’t afford lessons. Available on request at [info@prodrive.co.za](mailto:info@prodrive.co.za).
- l. 2008 to 22 February 2011 – Appointed as Chairperson SAIDI Gauteng.
- m. 2009.05.14 – Elected as National President of SAIDI (The Southern African Institute of Driving Instructors). This was a voluntary position for 13 years.
- n. 2009 – 2013 Voting member of the child safety restraint committee at the SABS.
- o. 2012 – Promoting the implementation of ISO standards for dual controls for driving school vehicles at the SABS (South African Bureau of Standards).
- p. 2012 –Working towards introducing standards for adaptations for drivers with disabilities at the SABS.
- q. 2009 – 2012 Met monthly in Johannesburg at the Metro Police offices with the Gauteng Provincial Government – Roads and Transport - to work towards regulating the driving school industry. Lloyd Mdkane was Chairperson of that committee.
- r. 2010 - Presented taxi driver training to 24 taxi drivers in Soshanguve in May/June in preparation for the influx of foreign visitors to South Africa for the World Soccer Cup. Credit to Elias Moabi – Union Leader SOLLDTA Taxi Union! (His number 078 778 6710)



- s. 2009 - First International Road Traffic Safety Convention – I was honoured to be the only driving instructor in South Africa to do a presentation on behalf of driving instructors. I proposed a training centre for all driving instructors in South Africa for all codes of driving instructors. My Power Point presentation was comprehensive but I completed it in the allocated time limit.



- t. 2010 - 2013 – (3 1/2 years) Assisted QASA as their Pretoria Driving Instructor (The QuadPara Association) in their “Driving Ambitions,” programme. Taught quadriplegics and paraplegics to drive in an adapted vehicle, which is a new service in South Africa. I have extensive video footage of their progress. Many clients passed their licences and are now driving independently. One student was born without arms, but today offers tours in a bus for groups of people. (See Jappie Thulo on Facebook) (His number is 060 971 6235)



- u. 2010 - 2013 – Driving assessor for Rolling Rehab and other occupational therapists’ clients. Regularly assess and evaluate people, in conjunction with occupational therapists, who have suffered traumatic brain injuries, and various health issues. Caroline Rule OT was my mentor in this new field in South Africa, together with Justine Kolling and we served a group of occupational therapists’ patients.
- v. 2011 – 2012 Involved in learners’ and driving licence training for people with special needs, at Pathways Studio in Pretoria.
- w. 2012 – Registered a Company as “The Professional Driving Academy of South Africa” to better suit the various categories of drivers I am busy training, assessing and evaluating, because the Government was not interested to work with Sole Proprietors at the meetings I attended on behalf of SAIDI.
- x. 2012 to 2013 – We introduced a new, first time learner driver programme for social workers at the *Red Cross for social workers* in Germiston. They were going out into the poorer communities to help people where they need it most. Sadly few of the social workers passed their learner’s licences. It seemed that they could not imagine achieving this in their lives.



- y. As National President of SAIDI, I represented SAIDI on the *National Driving School Forum*, together with representatives from the other three major Associations. As the Secretary on this committee since 2010 until I resigned in March 2022, once the RTTMC stopped working on the Unit standard for driving instructors.
- z. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013, the first Summit meeting for driving schools was held at the CSIR in Pretoria, where I was spokesperson for SAIDI.
- aa. Responsible for drafting the new Constitution and the Terms of Reference for this Association (SAIDI) to promote the standard of driving instructors across the country.
- bb. The training programmes I have prepared for the anyone in the Transport Industry and especially driving instructors, took many years to write, starting from August 2001. They are based on the actual law, scanned directly from the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996, and the K53 manuals, prepared in Power Point format for mass training, (and suitable for translation into any other language to reach every person in the country). Wendy Watson approved them from NDOT.

- cc. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 appeared on TV on 3Talk with Noeleen, Howard Dembovsky (JPISA) Justice Project South Africa; Caroline Rule OT from Rolling Rehab; Acting CEO Collins Letsoalo RTMC (Road Traffic Management Corporation); and the Deputy Minister of Transport Ms Sindisiwe Lydia Chikunga in a discussion about the road fatality rate on South African roads, particularly over Christmas.
- dd. On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013, very excited to be part of the EXPO for people with disabilities. A marvellous day was had by all, as one of a small group of driving instructors who gave one disabled person after another the opportunity to be loaded into the Driving Ambitions vehicle in a cordoned-off area, to learn to drive the adapted vehicle. There can surely be few more rewarding experiences than taking a person who has survived a horrific crash after waking up to discover they are suddenly a paraplegic or quadriplegic, forced by circumstances to learn to use a wheelchair for the first time. To get them behind the wheel of a car, which is adapted for them to be able to drive themselves around again, was amazing! There were grown men straight out of hospital in tears of joy, hardly able to believe that they can re-do their licences and re-gain their independence again. Credit to Caroline Rule (OT) of Rolling Rehab for the dream she made come true for so many yesterday, and all the many companies who supported her to achieve this long-needed fully-comprehensive service. It was awesome! One young man had cerebral palsy. I taught him all the yard work which he accomplished with his tearful parent watching.
- ee. The same function was held again on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. Stunning! THE SAIDI gazebo was a landmark at this prestigious event.



- ff. 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 – Gauteng Forum for Driving Schools was formed by MEC Ismail Vadi. Represented SAIDI there. We entered into an agreement with him, and signed an MOA, but nothing came of it.
- gg. Each day, from 8:00 to 18:00 six days a week, generally continue to train learner drivers for their learner's licences, driving licences and defensive driver training, and occasionally offer instructor training workshops.
- hh. Specialize in assisting people who have developed a fear of driving due to having been involved in terrible crashes. Have some video footage of how they started and their subsequent progress.
- ii. Qualified as an Assessor on 21 July 2014.

- jj. Qualified as Moderator 24 July 2017.
- kk. On behalf of the National Driving School Forum, gave evidence to the Gauteng Legislature on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014, of all the many meetings we have attended, starting in 1975, when SAIDI was started by the previous Government as the Training Institute for Driving Instructors, until the other three Associations for Driving Schools were started during the last few years. Copies of over 534 documents were given to them as proof of the numerous meetings we have attended to regulate the driving school industry.
- ll. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 the four National Driving School Associations met with the Gauteng Legislature where I was asked to give a summary of those years for the benefit of the Committee, which also consists of representatives from all political parties. The Department of Education and health were also there with members of the Gauteng Provincial Government. They have gone away to “do their homework” and to get more scientific evidence, as we are required to provide, and have done so.
- mm. One of my special needs clients, who is both autistic, dyslexic and suffering from cerebral palsy, was unable to read when I met him, not only learnt to read (enough to read the whole learner’s licence manual unassisted by staying up all night doing the test and passing with 100% correct as homework), but also learnt to write in both English and Afrikaans, passing his learner’s licence on his first attempt and has subsequently passed his driving licence in an automatic vehicle.
- nn. Between 2001 to date have presented training workshops to equip driving instructors to train people to drive to an advanced/defensive standard.
- oo. In July 2016 my privilege to train a man from Namibia, who is a paraplegic, to become a driving instructor for people with disabilities to drive. He is happily working now in his own business and equipping people with disabilities to become safe defensive drivers.
- pp. From 2016 worked with several occupational therapists, assessing the driving of their clients after suffering traumatic brain injuries, to enable them to return to work after rehabilitation and for their insurance purposes to try to avoid re-tests, if possible, by training them on advanced driving standards, to improve their driving standard, where necessary.
- qq. 2017 and 2018 - Heavily involved in defensive training for several Companies’ fleet drivers to reduce their crashes and insurance claims, while working with the National Department of Transport and the Minister of Transport, as we try to introduce high standards for driving instructors in South Africa. (Reference available from GP Retail Operations on request.)
- rr. I traded the A-Class Mercedes in for an Audi Q3 once the service plan was finished. That vehicle was fitted with three dual-control pedals on the left side to enable me to take control in the event of a driver under instruction accidentally driving dangerously. The vehicle was branded and fully-comprehensively insured.



- ss. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 underwent further training with a group of occupational therapists for training people with disabilities to drive, which was a certified workshop.
- tt. In 2017 member of the National Driving School Task Team, representing both the Southern African Institute of Driving Instructors, as well as the National Driving School Forum, together with the RTMC and QCTO spending six months at no remuneration setting a curriculum in place for driving instructors. We were advised that this would take about four years to be finalized. COVID-19 interrupted that process after the Unit standard was registered by QCTO. The last year was never finalised and we are not able to get any clarity on the completion of this process from the RTMC.
- uu. In 2017 served as a member of the National Legislative Framework Committee to ensure that laws governing driving schools were passed. All work on this committee was stopped despite promises made. However, the unit standard was registered a QCTO.
- vv. 27<sup>th</sup> December Radio interview SAFM.
- ww. Submitting articles to journalists such as Karishma Dipa | Social Media Manager & Content Producer: The Saturday Star
- xx. Lockdown due to the Corona virus pandemic from 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 until July 2020, while we are legally compelled to stay isolated at home, and unable to generate an income, we started working with three other TETA accredited Assessors and Moderators to set standards for SAIDI Members.



YY. December 2020 A Nissan Micra fitted with 3 dual-controlled pedals, sign-marked and fully-comprehensively insured is now used as the training vehicle, still offering one-one one pick-up and drop driving lessons.

ZZ. Instructor training workshops are offered, when requested. Recent success stories are very heartening.

AAA. Trained an extra-heavy truck driver who was injured in a bad fall on his shoulder to be a registered driving instructor. He is now also a facilitator, assessor, and moderator.

BBB. I stepped down as National President of SAIDI after serving in that voluntary position once I had handed over the reins to Robert Chandler as Managing Director.

CCC. I continue to refine my training programmes whenever time permits, adding new material and more explicit photographs and animations, including online training programmes to include special needs students (with their medical practitioner's approval, deaf or partially deaf students, illiterate students, using pictures and animations to explain essential details.)

DDD. Was interviewed by Stephen Grootes for SAFM about road rules in South Africa due to the horrific crash where a truck driver overtook on a no-crossing line in Pongola, killing 18 children and two adults in a bakkie. The bakkie driver did nothing to avoid the head-on collision. They wanted to discuss refresher courses.