

# spotlight

**In-depth, public interest health journalism.**

## **Spotlight has set up an editorial advisory panel (EAP) that met for the first time in May 2022.**

1. The main function of the EAP is to provide the Spotlight editors with advice and feedback on the quality and relevance of Spotlight's public interest health journalism.
2. The intention of having an EAP that provides feedback and advice is to
  - a) help the Spotlight editors maintain and improve the quality of Spotlight's public interest health journalism and
  - b) to help the Spotlight editors produce public interest journalism that is relevant to the healthcare challenges in South Africa – especially challenges relating to TB, HIV, COVID-19 and the functioning of the healthcare system.
3. The advice and feedback provided by the EAP is not binding on the Spotlight editors. Spotlight's editorial independence remains unequivocally vested in the editors.
4. As a member of the South African Press Council Spotlight also remains bound by the South African Press Code. The public's complaints about Spotlight's journalism should be sent either directly to the Spotlight editors or to the office of the Press Ombud and not to the EAP. Members of the EAP will however be made aware of any complaints to the press Ombud regarding Spotlight articles.
5. Spotlight staff are employed by SECTION27 and bound by SECTION27's policies and, as with the rest of SECTION27, accounts to the SECTION27 board. Spotlight is, however, editorially independent and does not account to the SECTION27 board on editorial decisions.
6. The EAP twice per year meets with the Spotlight editors to provide feedback and advice. These meetings may be held virtually or in-person. Between EAP meetings members of the EAP may also send comments directly to the editors.
7. The EAP has six members: Two journalists or former journalists, two health experts, and two people from civil society organisations working on healthcare in South Africa. These members are invited by the Spotlight editors, at their discretion, to join the EAP.
8. Each member of the EAP shall serve a single, non-renewable term of three years.
9. EAP members are expected to keep an eye on Spotlight's journalistic output, to reflect on it, and to share their views with Spotlight's editors either at the twice annual meetings or directly via e-mail. The editors may also seek out the advice of the EAP on specific issues between meetings.
10. The current EAP members are Paula Fray, Ina Skosana, Dr Harsha Somaroo, Professor Francois Venter, Sasha Stevenson, and Ngqabutho Mpofu. The Spotlight editors are very grateful for their willingness to serve on the EAP.