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Advocating for occupational well-being and occupational justice for patients in a forensic psychiatric setting through a graded pre-vocational skills programme

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The State patients at Sterkfontein Psychiatric Hospital often experience occupational imbalance and deprivation, leading to problems such as idleness, and increase in adverse events for example patients engaging in destructive occupations for personal gain. Due to the lack of work and life skills, successful reintegration into the community is limited. Based on this need, the Occupational Therapy department developed a comprehensive, graded pre-vocational programme consisting of a variety of projects and phases based on Vona du Toit's Model of Creative Ability and Kielhofner's Model of Human Occupation. This programme aims to promote occupational balanced lifestyle within the hospital as well as to equip the user with a variety of work skills for reintegration into the community. The programme is graded, with each project providing the just right challenge, enabling users to progress through the levels of creative ability. The presenter will take a retrospective view to evaluate the effectiveness, successes and challenges experienced in this programme. Progress was tracked using the Activity Participation Outcome Measure, as well as individual case studies, will be included in this retrospective evaluation. It indicates patients are experiencing more successful Leaves of absence along with more meaningful participation in the programme. This programme, despite its challenges, has advocated for forensic mental health care users as occupational beings and aided to provide a comprehensive intervention to promote occupational health and well-being for successful integration into their specific environments for all levels of functioning.