

ASISA



FOUNDATION

# Overview

2020





## WORKSHOPS CONTINUE

**T**HE YEAR 2020 was a uniquely challenging one for so many people on so many levels. The RFTE team was, however, able to engage with more than 350 custodians of pension fund savings, including trustees, chairpersons and principal officers.

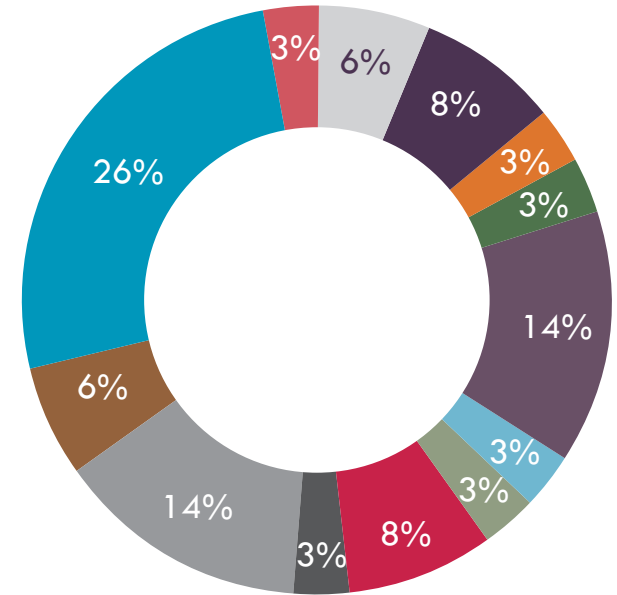
These 35 workshops were initially conducted face to face but switched to online sessions when the pandemic started, to ensure safety of both staff and attendees. The most requested workshop was on the topic of *Death benefits*, followed by *Investment management fees* and *Responsible investing* (see breakdown to the right).

### Electronic educational supplements

The focus on providing world-class retirement fund education and empowering custodians of the nation's pension fund savings, has been given a boost with the ASISA Foundation's partnership with Atleha-edu and collaborations with companies like Prescient and Old Mutual, among others. This trustee education platform takes its name from the Sesotho expression for telling someone "to prosper".

The partnership with Atleha-edu provides access to a variety of electronic publications, podcasts, videos and other formats which help unpack relevant themes and topics like infrastructure investments, cultural practices, exploring issues like cohabitation legal rights, customary marriages and identifying beneficiaries and dependents. The various publications are distributed to around 6 400 of the country's trustees, principal officers and pension fund chairpersons. The intent is to support their learning journey alongside the workshops and other formalised engagements where financial education takes place.

## BREAKDOWN OF WORKSHOPS PRESENTED IN 2020



- Death benefits
- Pooled investing
- Investment fundamentals
- Governance & ethics
- Responsible investing
- Active ownership
- Responsible investing (half-day)
- Governance & ethics (half-day)
- Investment fundamentals (half-day)
- Organised labour masterclass (half-day)
- Annual financial statements
- Invest management fees
- Default regulations

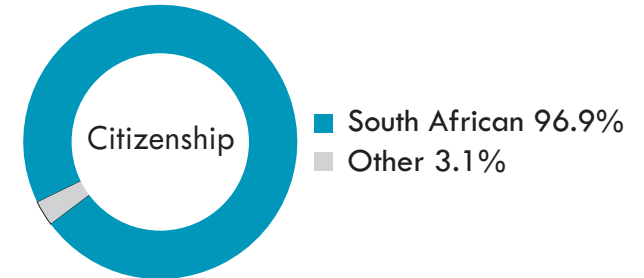
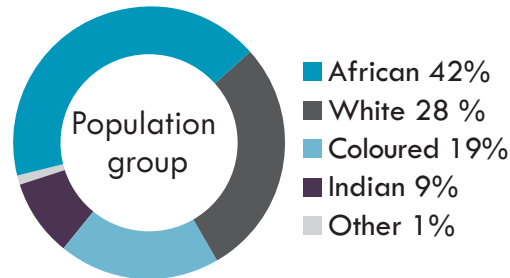
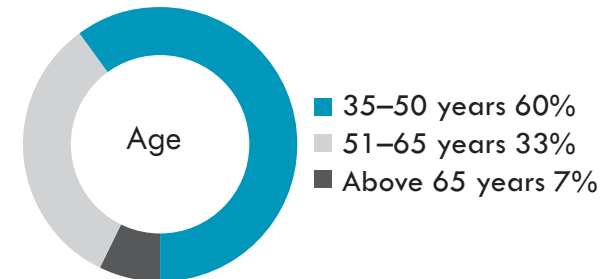
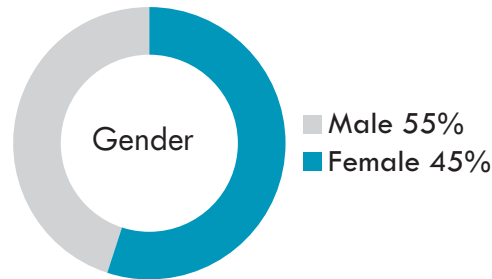


The electronic publications present the opportunity for readers requiring continuous professional development (CPD) to take a short quiz at the end to claim those points with Batseta. Archived and recent copies are available on [www.asisa.org.za/foundation/publications](http://www.asisa.org.za/foundation/publications).

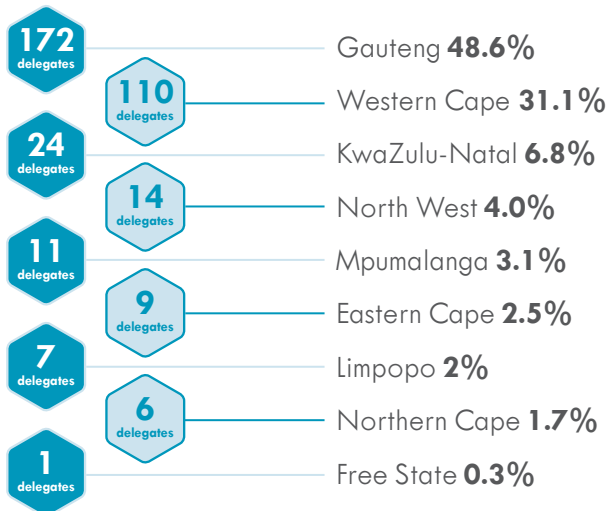
The support offered to pension fund custodians has not just benefitted them, but also the members of the funds which they administer. To date we have been able to support the decision-making of funds covering around 800 000 members and representing around R330bn worth of assets.

Workshop data was independently assessed by The Bureau of Market Research (Pty) Limited (BMR), a research entity at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN



## PROVINCIAL ATTENDANCE



## INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE LEVELS

Annuities permitted in default regulations	17%
Default investment portfolios	66%
Share price	80%
Total expense ratio calculation	25%
Asset classes	36%
Fund board composition	31%
PFA Regulation 28	14%
Timing of dependents identification for allocation of benefits	8%

## INCREASE IN CONFIDENCE LEVELS

Discussing paid-up status in terms of default regulations	40%
Purpose and use of annual financial statements	17%
Explain purpose of investment policy statement	19%
Discussing performance fees	47%
Explaining implementation of ESG requirements	29%
Discussing impact investing	31%
Discussion on Pension Funds Act	21%
Analysing fund statements	19%
Discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals	25%
Discussing legal dependency with a fund member	29%

Independently assessed by BMR



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