

Jobs are available for Blind, Visually Impaired and Partially Sighted Persons

Visual impairment does not need to put you at the back of the job placements queue. There are many job opportunities where a blind person could excel. Previously it was very difficult for blind job seekers to access information and then source employment. Today job opportunities for the blind and visually impaired have radically increased in the last few years, opening up doors for the employer and employee.

SANCB (South African National Council for Blind) is based in Muckleneuk Pretoria, and aims to help visually impaired, blind persons and people with disability to find place blind job seekers in places of employment. SANCB assists in the training of the employer and employee. For the job seeker the training is in the basic skills needed to function as a blind or visually impaired person training in Braille, life skills and other programs. Help for the employer comes in assisting the employer to cater for the needs of the blind person in the workplace.

Job seekers and employers can access the SANCB placements website, a recruitment portal available for all disabled job seekers.

Although there seem to be many obstacles in the way of a blind job seeker, there are in fact many openings and opportunities once you have skilled yourself up in the relevant fields.

Examples of Job opportunities for a blind or visually impaired person could be:

The reality is a blind or partially sighted person can perform a plethora of jobs, as long as there is not a danger to the person eg operating heavy machinery

- Helpdesk operator
- Food services
- Programmer
- Salesperson
- Artist
- Legal employment eg Lawyer, legal assistants, clerks in court
- Administrative staff
- Professional writing of articles online or other

What would a blind or partially sighted person need to be effective in the workplace?

Each person has unique needs, which is the SANCB recruiting staff are able to assist in evaluating the person's needs and to carry this information over to the employer.

- Partially sighted: A bigger computer screen, and keyboard where the letters are highlighted and bolded
- Skills to perform the job: This could include computer skills, customer service and helpdesk operators, professional writers, researchers, assistants, administrators.
- A screen reader program: In supporting a blind or visually impaired person in the workplace, there are programs such as Jaws screen reader which enables the user to read from Word documents, and transfers the information into Braille and audio (voice messages).
- Easier access to the office or work space as far as possible

Blind people or those with visual impairment who have the desirable skills tended to be looked over in the past, but recently as employers are becoming more open, they have realised that these employees are great assets to the company.

To be blind in the workplace can be difficult, but SANCB can assist you in placements, recruiting, training of the blind person, as well as the support needed for the employer, needing to understand how to assist and integrate the worker into the workplace.