

Presenter Bio: Malcolm de Jager

■ Qualifications and research

Malcolm de Jager is a dedicated public health official. He holds a **Master's Degree in Environmental Health**, a postgraduate diploma in Public Health, and various certificates in management, i.e., Total Quality Management, Certificate Programme in Management Development: Municipal Finance and a National Diploma in Public Administration. He is a PhD candidate in Environmental Health at the Central University of Technology, Free State. The **PhD seeks to explore the integration of Environmental Health and water, sanitation, healthcare waste management, and hygiene into healthcare delivery by developing a South Africa WASH-specific conceptual framework.**

■ Experience and current role

He has over **16 years of experience, specializing in environmental health and WASH** (Water, sanitation, and hygiene) program implementation and management, both at Municipal Health and District Health Service level. The Free State Department of Health currently employs him to manage the Environmental Health Programme for the Xhariep District Health Services. His expertise lies in leading the implementation and oversight of critical health programs, including water, sanitation, healthcare waste management, and environmental hygiene, while managing the human and financial resources to deliver services across 16 clinics, one community health center, and four District Hospitals.

■ Results and recognition

He has a proven track record of delivering tangible results, most notably driving healthcare waste infrastructure compliance from **11.6% in 2018 to 90% in 2025** across the district's Clinics. His expertise has been recognized nationally by the Health Systems Trust, ranking 5th among 70 national submissions for "Good Practice." He was awarded the **Best Waste Management Officer Award** by the MEC: Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and the **District Director's Award for Service Excellence**. He led the Mokokare Local Municipality to be awarded top Cleanest Ward and Cleanest Town in the **2017 Cleanest and Greenest Municipality Competitions**.

■ Governance and quality improvement

Beyond operational management, he is a member of the District Health Management Team, where he contributes to performance management and health program planning. He is also a member of the Perfect Permanent Team for Ideal Health Facility Realization and Maintenance, which seeks to advance the National Health Insurance through facility improvement projects to enhance service quality and prepare health infrastructure for the future. Through continuous quality improvement, these actions have yielded an **"Excellent Grading"** for many WASH standards across assessed domains in most Clinics and District Hospitals in the District by the Office of Health Standards Compliance.

