



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

PROF LISANNE M. DU PLESSIS RD(SA); NT(SA).

PhD Nutritional Sciences, Master of Nutrition, BSc Dietetics, Stellenbosch University

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Prof Lisanne du Plessis's field of experience spans three decades of engagement in Public Health Nutrition, of which she spent a decade working for government and the past two decades in academia. She is dually registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa as dietitian and nutritionist, which reflects her comprehensive skillset in this field. Prof du Plessis's early lecturing and research focus was on infant and young child feeding, with emphasis on breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Over time it grew into a broader Public Health Nutrition focus on the environment that affects maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, including policy, governance, advocacy, and leadership issues, as well as nutrition education and promotion. During the past decade, her research focus has intensified on the "first food environment" which refers to the contexts in which mothers and caregivers make decisions about infant and young child feeding. It encompasses healthcare, retail, workplaces, communities, and households which operate within a broader set of overlapping systems. These systems include health, social, education, urban, economic, and political spheres which need to align and support caregivers comprehensively to enforce policies, programmes, resources, and actions.