

# UPDATE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) FUNCTION SHIFT

Joint Portfolio Committee for Basic Education and Social Development  
09 March 2022



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**social development**

Department:  
Social Development  
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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Purpose
- Matters raised during the previous Portfolio Committee meeting
- Context
- Mandate
- What can we expect once the function is with DBE
- Service Delivery Model
- Approach
- Process
- Function Shift Progress
- What happens from 1 April 2022?
- Function Improvement
- Further work: Second Children's Amendment Bill

# PURPOSE

To present to the joint Portfolio Committee for Basic Education and Social Development **update** on the Early Childhood Development (ECD) **function shift**.

# MATTERS RAISED DURING THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Matter raised	Matter addressed
How the transfer of Social Workers will affect the functioning of DSD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The increase in social ills and the impact of COVID 19 has worsened the situation. Social workers are key resource in the delivery of social welfare services.</li> <li>However, the ring-fencing of staff was done to ensure that the ECD function is not negatively impacted, but that the DSD can still fulfil remaining functions.</li> </ul>
The qualification requirements for ECD practitioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear communication to the sector to explain that the DBE will continue to support ECD practitioners on their journey to upskilling their qualifications .</li> <li>This included a Dialogue with the sector to engage on this matter, and the matter is being addressed in all ongoing provincial and regional summits.</li> <li>A developmental approach will be taken to systematically train and up-skill ECD practitioners over time through the development of a <b>Strategic Human Resource Development Plan</b>. This will include encouraging the career among male caregivers.</li> <li>Clarified that ECD programmes are the employers of ECD practitioners and that this will remain the case.</li> <li>Have been exploring options with partners to encourage male participation in ECD delivery.</li> </ul>
The management of expectations of ECD practitioners receiving salaries.	
Encouraging males in becoming ECD practitioners	

# MATTERS RAISED DURING THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Matter raised	Matter addressed
Increasing funding to the ECD sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DBE has partnered with the World Bank and National Treasury to do a Public Expenditure and Institutional Review to lay the foundation for a costed upscaling model which will inform lobbying of funding.</li> <li>The ECD Census will also help with providing evidence to the business case for increased funding and to understand where additional support needs to be provided to increase access.</li> <li>Implementation of service delivery model that advocate for different modalities.</li> </ul>
Increasing access to ECD services	
Streamlining the registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vangasali process helps with standardising the registration process.</li> <li>The registration framework developed by DSD assist with clearly communicating the expected norms and standards. The framework assist in terms of the different levels of registration that accommodates ECDs that did not meet all registration requirements. This gives them the opportunity for development and support.</li> <li>The Second Children's Amendment Bill will initiate the first step in streamlining the process.</li> <li>The review of the regulations, norms and standards will further assist in streamlining the process.</li> </ul>



# CONTEXT

- Quality ECD programmes should lay a **solid foundation** for **school readiness** and **quality education** for children.
- The reality is that the **provision** and **institutional arrangements** of ECD, historically and currently mitigate against this eventuality.
- This has undermined the **coherent** and **cohesive** cognitive, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development of children.
- This is compounded by **huge inequalities** stemming from **diverse socio-economic** backgrounds that children are born with and born within, and if not properly mediated through quality integrated ECD programmes, children are likely to carry this over through their education, and subsequently for the rest of their lives.

# MANDATE FOR THE FUNCTION SHIFT

- **CONSTITUTION:**

Section 29(1)(a) of the Constitution declares that “*everyone has a right to a basic education ...*”

- **NDP:**

*“There should be a **policy and programme shift** to ensure that the Department of Basic Education takes core responsibility for the provision and monitoring of ECD”.*

- **ANC’s 54<sup>th</sup> National Conference:**

*“The ANC must ensure there is **systematic relocation** of the responsibility of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education.”*

- **National Integrated ECD Policy**

*“There should be a **policy and programme shift** to ensure that the Department of Basic Education takes core responsibility for the provision and monitoring of ECD.”*

# WHAT CAN WE EXPECT AFTER THE FUNCTION SHIFT?

- The focus will be on the delivery of an **integrated, aligned service delivery model** that will ensure **access to quality early learning and development opportunities for all children**, which will build on the gains instituted by the DSD and to which **DBE and DSD will jointly work towards**;
- This will be done by:
  - Increasing **access** through an upscaling model;
  - **Strengthening the focus** on integrated nurturing care, early stimulation and learning, and universal curriculum provision;
  - Strengthening **collaboration** with the other Departments to ensure the holistic support and development of the child; and
  - **Reviewing the current funding models** to evaluate whether lessons can be learnt from the schooling sector.



# WHAT CAN WE EXPECT AFTER THE FUNCTION SHIFT?

- The ECD function will be further **systematised** and **institutionalised**:
  - The ECD function will be integrated into the **Education Management Information System**. This will allow for more rigorous planning, better systematic support to the sector and for clearer communication with the sector;
  - The DBE also has institutional knowledge on implementing the **National School Nutrition Programme** and the **Integrated School Health Programme**;
  - Improved **resource** provisioning:
    - Teacher guides, toys, LTSM, playground equipment;
  - Strengthen the provisioning of **nutrition** at ECD Programmes; and
  - Strengthen Practitioners' implementation of **Learning Through Play** and **Nurturing Care**.

Integrated, holistic ECD provisioning will therefore build a coherent starting phase within the continuum of lifelong learning.

# ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL:

## THE VISION FOR ECD

**The five strategies for improving the quality of ECD in South Africa:**

1. Curriculum-based **early learning** for all children birth to 5 years – implementing the NCF.
2. Early childhood development **programmes** for all children birth to 5 years – a continuum of programmes.
3. **Training** and development for all those working in ECD – career paths, with intensive but flexible training opportunities.
4. **Coordination & integration** of all early childhood development services.
5. A flexible **funding and provisioning** framework.

# APPROACH TO SERVICE DELIVERY:

## THREE MODALITIES FOR OFFERING ECD

The three (3) modalities proposed to provide flexibility for parents / caregivers and children through three (3) programme options:

1. **centre-based programmes;**
2. **play groups; and**
3. **home-based programmes.**

These programmes will be complemented and supported by **training** of caregivers and those working in ECD centres and playgroups on the NCF; **mobile ECD programmes** and **toy-libraries**.

Children younger than 4 years will therefore not be enrolled in schools – they will be accessing services through ECD Programmes

## 2 PROCESSES RUNNING CONCURRENTLY

- **Function shift**

- Focusses on shifting the responsibility to the Department of Basic Education.
- Follow process outlined by the National Treasury and Department of Public Service Administration.
- Principle to follow: ring-fence the 'as-is' function and transfer it.

- **Function improvement**

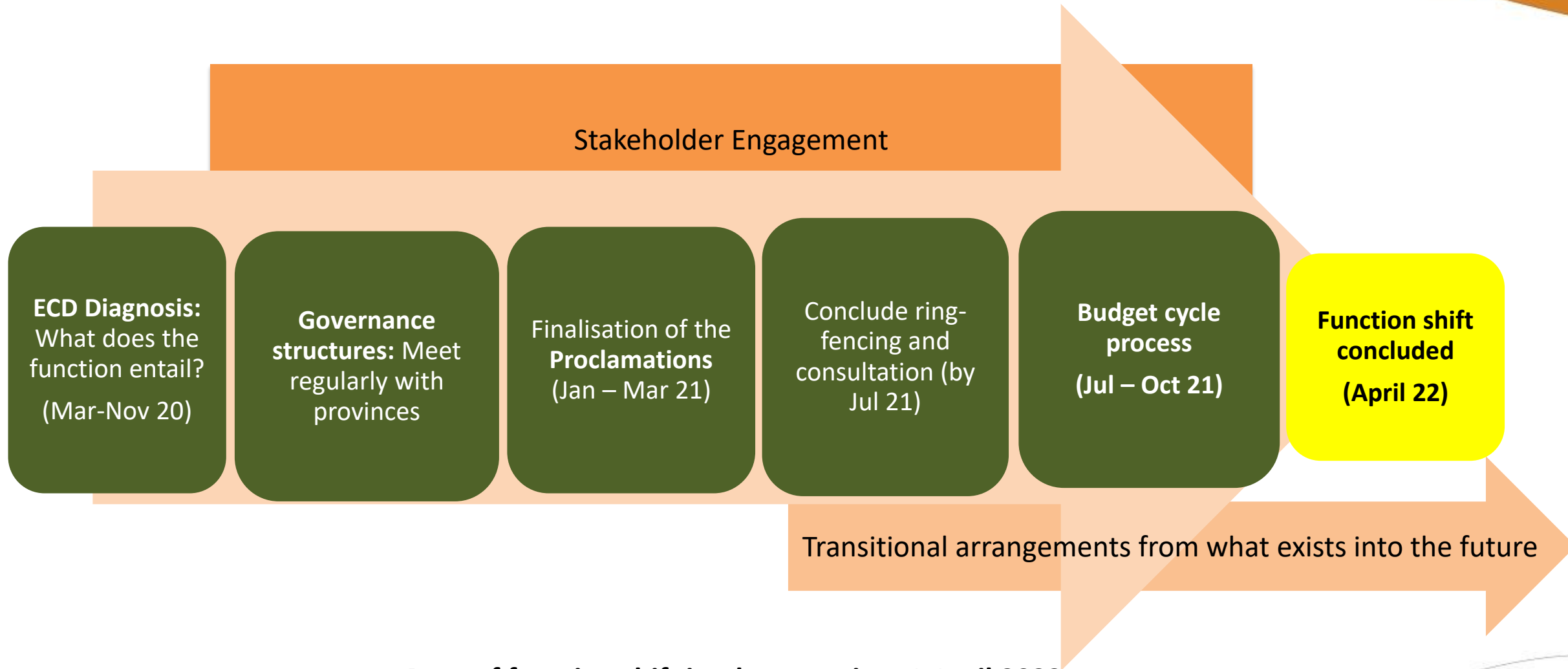
- Entails preparations for improving on the service delivery of the ECD function.
- We have started with preparations for these improvements in 2021, but they will be rolled-out systematically over the next 5 to 10 years.
- The changes will be communicated clearly and well in advance.

# FUNCTION SHIFT





# FUNCTION SHIFT TIME LINES



**Date of function shift implementation: 1 April 2022**

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## GOVERNANCE



- Legislation and contracts;
- Human resources;
- Finance and budgets;
- Movable and immovable assets;
- Data, information, monitoring and evaluation;
- Communication and stakeholder engagement; and
- Implementation programmes.

These structures will also oversee the transitional period

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## NATIONAL PROGRESS

The following milestones for the technical phase of function shift is completed:

- By end of September 2021 both National and Provincial **Proclamations** were signed by President and Premiers respectively and gazette;
- National and all provinces have finalised their National Macro Organisation of Government (**NMOG**)/ Provincial Macro Organisation of Government (**PMOG**) **submissions**:
  - Ringfencing of staff to be transferred has been completed;
  - Consultation with affected staff and Organised Labour commenced in terms of Public Service Act, Public Service Regulations, Labour Relations Act as well as NMOG/PMOG requirements; and
  - Budgets and assets to be transferred have been identified.
- The function shift and post relocations from DSD to the DBE **organisational structure** is a standing item in the Departmental Bargaining Chamber.

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## NATIONAL PROGRESS

- Three reports have been submitted to the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (**PSCBC**) for the NITT meetings.
- In all three (3) meetings, labour appreciated the appropriateness of the reports and no issues have been raised.
- A **Cabinet memorandum** on the function shift has been prepared and was approved by the Social Protection, Community and Human Development (SPCHD) Cluster on 9 February 2022. It is expected that the Cabinet memorandum will serve in Cabinet in March 2022.

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Include the identification of the human resources, assets, infrastructure, subsidies and Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) funding budgets.
- A **total budget of R3,3bn** will be transferred to the DBE.
- This amount can be disaggregated as follows; Cost of Employees (CoE) – R 238,9m; Goods and Services – R 85,8m; NPO funding – R 2,3bn; and Capital Assets – R 18,5m.
- This has been tabled before the Technical Committee for Finance as well as the Budget Council for the transfer of funds for the 2022/23 financial year.
- The function shift was subsequently **tabled in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement** in November 2021.



# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## PROVINCIAL PROGRESS

- The **ring-fencing of posts was concluded** in all provinces at the end of August 2021, after which the labour consultation process commenced.
- **Labour consultations** have been progressing productively in all provinces, with Provincial Task Teams having been established in all 9 provinces.
- All provinces have also been consulting with the affected staff and the **lists of staff for transfer have been finalised**.
- All provinces are also in the process of **confirming office accommodation** for the affected staff. Challenges with office space have been identified in Gauteng (2 districts) and Western Cape. The provincial departments have agreed on interim solutions in these cases.

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- ECD Programmes have joint inter-provincial meetings every second Monday to ensure the transfer of institutional knowledge on business processes and projects to support ECD delivery.
- This entails:
  - Identifying all the roles and responsibilities in each province that needs to be transferred:
    - NB processes include Registration, on-going support and funding (ECD subsidy guidelines training).
    - DSD conducted workshops to train DBE officials on programme related matters particularly on infrastructure, the Vangasali registration process, the National ECD Policy and the conditional grant.
  - Identifying all the current projects that the ECD programmes are involved with; and
  - Engaging jointly in the business processes – especially regarding the finalisation of SLAs and ensuring that the funding process is completed.

# FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

- The DBE and DSD, in collaboration with the NECT have held **monthly stakeholder engagement sessions** to brief the sector on the function shift.
- Monthly dialogues took place on 27 September 2021, 29 October 2021, 30 November 2021 and 31 January 2022.
- Provinces have held **provincial summits**, led by the MECs.
- Provinces have also been engaging on **provincial roadshows** and are holding district level engagements with ECD stakeholders on the ground.
- Provinces are also leading **communication and advocacy campaigns** through local radio stations.
- From the national departments a **media toolkit** was developed including a frequently asked questions document, social media posts to demystify some of the misconceptions regarding the function shift as well as a key messages document.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM 1 APRIL 2022?



# PREPARING FOR THE FUNCTION:

2021/22

- Institutional Knowledge Transfer: Basic Education starts to work along side Social Development on planning and completing business processes.

2022/23

- Implement function 'as-is' with minor amendments to business processes. (Low-hanging fruits)
- Start preparation for function improvements.

2023-2030

- Systematically roll out function improvements.

Transitional arrangements to ensure smooth hand-over



# WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 APRIL 2022:

## TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- The two Departments will continue working together post 01 April 2022.
- To continue with monthly engagements/ meetings between the two departments with Ministers, MECs, DGs and HODs
- The governance structures that have been overseeing the function shift process will continue to meet in the 2022/23 financial year to ensure that there is a smooth transition.
- Some provinces will enter into MOUs to ensure that outstanding administrative processes are finalised and to enable other arrangements like sharing of office space.
- DSD and DBE will enter into an MOU to continue with the use of the Vangasali registration system whilst the new system is still under development.
- Handover reports from National and Provincial DSD will be submitted on 15 March 2022.

# WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 APRIL 2022?

## FIRST 100 DAYS

1. Ensure that there is a smooth transfer of staff and no interruption to service delivery.
2. Improvements (low hanging fruit):
  1. Entering into strategic partnerships to ensure continued support on ECD registration, while developing an online ECD registration system;
  2. Integrate the ECD Census data into the EMIS environment;
  3. Collaboration with provinces on standardising the ECD subsidy guidelines to move towards equity in the implementation of the ECD subsidy across provinces.
  4. Strong leadership shown in collaborative structures:
    1. Inter-Ministerial Committee;
    2. Inter-Departmental Committee; and
    3. Inter-Sectoral Forum and the sub-committees.

NB

# WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 APRIL 2022?

## FIRST 100 DAYS

### 2. Improvements (cont):

#### 5. Update policy and legislative environment:

1. Review of National Integrated ECD Policy;
2. Processing of the Second Children's Amendment Bill; and
3. Review the regulations, norms and standards in line with the Second Children's Amendment Bill.

#### 6. Human resource development:

1. Establishment of an inter-sectoral task team for the development of a strategic human resource development plan.

# WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 APRIL 2022?

## FIRST 100 DAYS

- Ensuring monitoring and supporting of PEDs:
  - Registrations take place;
  - SLAs with ECD sites are in place;
  - Payments to ECDs are rolling;
  - The ECD stimulus package is supported; and
  - A resource gap analysis conducted.
- Develop a quality improvement plan based on the Thrive by Five findings.

DBE PMTs (National and provincial) will be kept in place as a transitional arrangement for the first twelve (12) months. Monthly engagements between the two departments with Ministers, MECs, DGs and HODs will continue.

**A 100 days report will be produced to provide feedback on these activities.**

# WHAT HAPPENS FROM 1 APRIL 2022?

## END OF THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. Processing of Second Children's Amendment Bill.
2. Reviewed options for holistic ECD legislation.
3. Reviewed options for a new funding model.
4. Developed a costed upscaling strategy.
5. Developed a quality assurance system that is ready for piloting.

# FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT



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# ECD CENSUS: PURPOSE

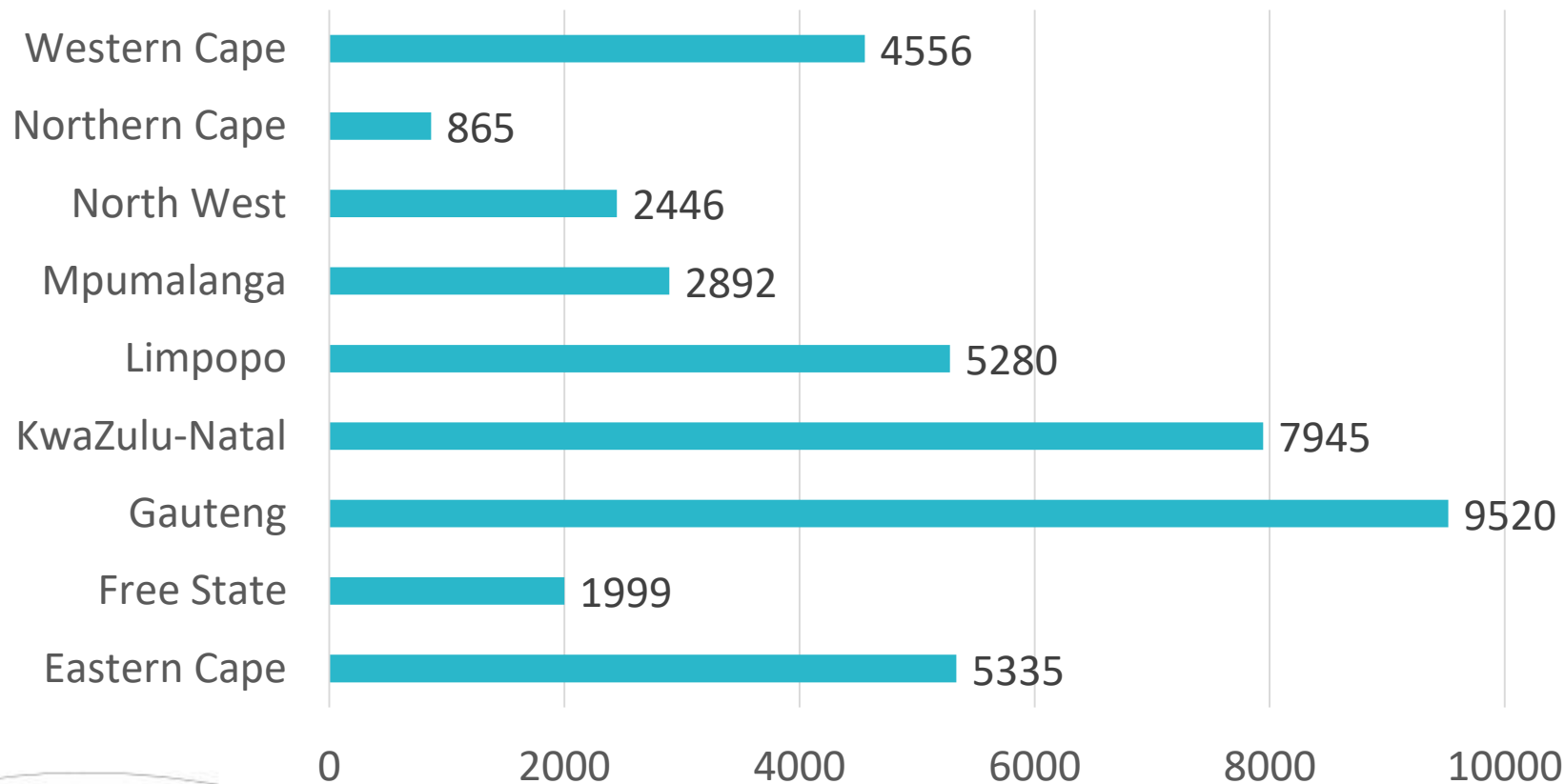


To find and map out all ECD programmes in South Africa.

So that we can develop a national Masterlist of ECD programmes and move towards having a national Education Management Information System (EMIS) for ECD.

# ECD CENSUS: UPDATE

Data collection completed on 18 February 2022



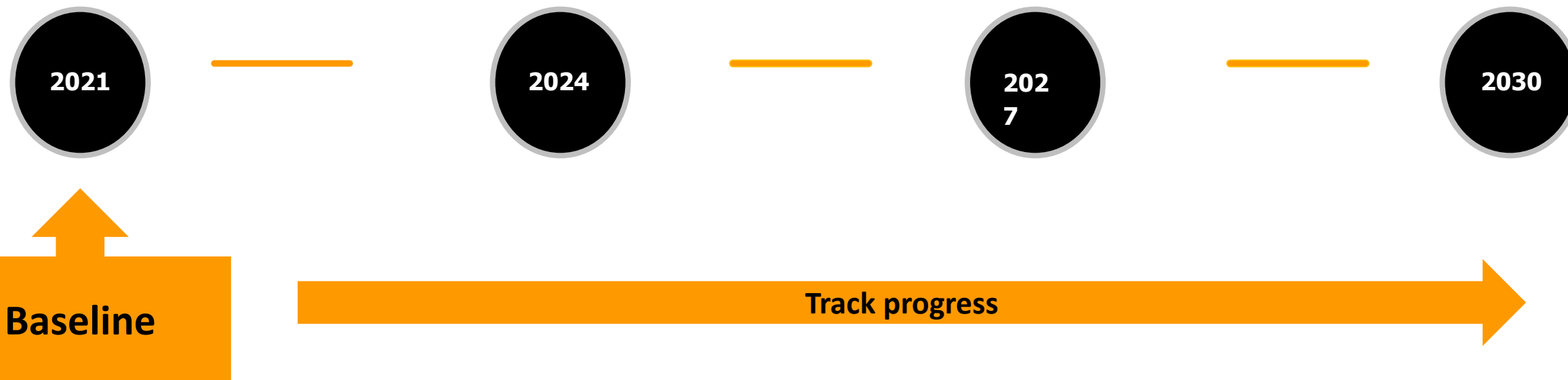
Tentative number of  
ECD programmes  
identified: 41,000

# THRIVE BY FIVE INDEX: PURPOSE



- Thrive by Five is South Africa's first Early Childhood Index.
- It measures the proportion of children aged 50-59 months, or 4-5 years old, across all 9 provinces who are developmentally “on track” for their age in key areas of development.
- Contextual questionnaires: understand context of infrastructure, governance, qualifications, resources, nutrition and curriculum implementation.
- This will help us understand where children are at, and what the challenges are that ECD programmes are facing in different contexts.

The Thrive by Five INDEX will provide  
nationally representative early childhood outcomes data at 3 yearly intervals



We will use the INDEX and the 3 ACTION CYCLES to  
drive and measure targeted change at multiple levels

# THRIVE BY FIVE INDEX

## Child Outcomes

- **Learning:**
  - Gross Motor Development
  - Fine Motor Development and Visual Motor Integration
  - Emergent Numeracy and Math
  - Cognition and Executive Functioning
  - Emergent Literacy and Language
- **Social and Emotional Functioning**
- **Height for Age**

Used the ELOM tool

## Contextual measures

- **Principal questionnaire**
  - Management; funding; nutrition
  - Qualifications; registration; fees
- **Practitioner questionnaire**
  - Practitioner characteristics
  - Training, qualification, age, income...
- **Facility observation**
  - Resourcing
  - Infrastructure
- **Quality assessment**
  - Measurement of what happens in the classrooms

Developed specific tools

# THRIVE BY FIVE INDEX



## How can DBE use this information ?

- ECD practitioner training and development;
- Strengthening the 0-4 curriculum and materials;
- Improvements to early learning regulatory and compliance systems;
- **Funding** for early learning programmes;
- Opportunities for **public-private partnerships** for interventions;
- Enhanced routine **monitoring systems**; and
- Effective **bridging programmes** for Grade R.



# THRIVE BY FIVE INDEX

How can this information be used to strengthen inter-governmental collaboration?

- **The Department of Health** in the monitoring and prevention of stunting.
- **The Department of Social Development** in the design and administration of psycho-social support interventions, parent education programmes, and social relief programmes.
- **National Treasury** in the budgeting for programmes for under-fives.
- **The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation** in the assessment of programmes for under-fives.
- **The NGO sector, funders, business, and academia** in galvanising, informing and strengthening collective efforts to ensure that more children enjoy the kinds of early life experiences that set them up for success.

# DEVELOPING DATA SYSTEMS FOR ECD

**Collaboration** established between DBE and Ilifa Labantwana to identify processes, technologies and systems to assist the DBE in:

- **Assessment and analysis of DSD** Provincial and National Systems;
- **Review DBE** systems; and
- User Requirements Specifications.

Identified the **Western Cape NPO (bespoke)** system as closest fit for purpose **solution**. However, the NPO is not an automatic 'plug and play' system for the DBE environment and will require customisation and enhancement for relevance to DBE.

HEDCOM recommended: Further explore the ECD functionality on the WC DSD NPO solution and adoption by DBE

# DEVELOPING DATA SYSTEMS FOR ECD

- Western Cape Government is responsible for development of the system.
- Currently in discussion to partner with WCG for customisation of WC NPO system for DBE via relevant Service Level Agreements.
- Results from the Gap Analysis will inform a Systems plan for required customisation and upgrade, relevant for DBE.
- **Phased approach** to the software customization, upgrade and release, currently being defined.
- **Recommendation for next 6-12 months:**
  - Continuation of the Vangasali Process for a period of 6-12 months, to allow correct and relevant upgrade and customisation of the WC NPO system.

# ECD FUNDING MODEL UNDER DBE

- **Short-run (2022/23 and 2023/24)**

- Implement the same model that DSD has been implementing;
- Standardising the implementation of this model to make sure it is implemented in the same way across the country; and
- Start with the development and piloting of a new funding model.

- **Medium to long-run (2024/25 – onwards)**

- Implementation of a new funding model (that is the distribution of funding to service providers);
- Systematically increase ECD funding to the sector.

# ECD FUNDING UNDER DBE

## PREPARING FOR UPSCALING

- **World Bank Collaboration on Public Expenditure and Institutional Review**
  - Purpose: To determine the amount of funding that is being spent on ECD by the different spheres of government, as well as the different Government Departments.
  - The ECD PEIR in South Africa will include an expenditure analysis on ECD in South Africa, as well as an institutional analysis on the prioritised ECD outcomes.

# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- The competency of ECD practitioners and educators directly determines the quality of ECD programmes.
- Over the next year, the DBE will develop an **ECD Human Resource Strategic Workforce Plan** that will include:
  - Articulating the qualifications at different levels;
  - Continuing professional development and in-service training, including recognition of prior learning;
  - Guidelines for early learning and development (caregivers);
  - Registration with SACE for ECD educators and practitioners; and
  - Norms for admin and other support staff.
- The Strategy will build on two policy documents:
  - *The Human Resources Development Strategy for Early Childhood Development (based on the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy) (2018); and*
  - *The Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators.*



# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Will develop an ECD Human Resource Strategic Workforce Plan by working very closely with the sector.
- We will establish a task team including government departments and their entities, as well as non-government organizations (amongst others).
- This plan will be developmental in nature, with the purpose of supporting practitioners.
- We will workshop this plan well before implementation.

# FURTHER WORK: SECOND CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL



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# SECOND CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL

- In March 2021, it was decided that the **DBE should play a more active role in providing strategic inputs and direction** into the Second Children's Amendment Bill.
- Since then, the DBE and DSD has **co-lead the Technical Task Team** for the Second Children's Amendment Bill.
- The Technical Task team has been **incorporating the public comments received**.
- The intention is to have the revised Second Amendment Bill **finalized by end of March 2022** so that it can be further processed through the Parliamentary process in the 2022/23 financial year.
- The technical team has also embarked on **reviewing the regulations, norms and standards**. This process will unfold into 2022.

# RISK MITIGATION

Identified Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Staff movements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anxiety about change;</li> <li>Ensuring that staff transferring have requisite institutional knowledge</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint change management process which include Debriefing of staff to be transferred</li> <li>Due diligence process on transferring staff</li> </ul>	Inter-provincial HR technical team	March - April 2023
<b>Office accommodation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring office space for transferred staff</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The affected provinces to look at the alternative measures to mitigate on this.</li> </ul>	Affected provinces	March 2022
<b>Sufficiency of resources to deliver services by both departments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource gaps after the function shift</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resource gap analysis will be done to determine and address any resource gaps that may arise</li> </ul>	Inter-provincial PMT	March 2022

# RISK MITIGATION

Identified Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Communication:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarifying misconceptions</li> <li>Managing expectations in the sector</li> <li>Getting support and buy-in from the sector</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint communication strategy implemented by national and provincial communication teams</li> </ul>	Inter-provincial Comms technical team	March - April 2023
<b>Managing transition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsidy payments</li> <li>Ensuring all SLA's and information for payments are transferred</li> <li>Ensuring all data is transferred accurately</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial legal and programme implementation teams to develop a transfer plan to ensure all required information and SLAs are transferred</li> </ul>	Inter-provincial technical teams	March 2023
<b>Children's Second Amendment Bill:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delays in processing</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adding the processing of the Second Children's Amendment Bill to the legislative pipeline</li> </ul>	Portfolio Committees	March - April 2023

# COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

## FROM NATIONAL

- Joint Media Briefing by both Ministers in March.
- Joint Handover event, attended by all Ministers core to delivering holistic ECD services on 1 April 2022.
- National count-down to the function shift started on 1 March 2022.
- More aggressive distribution of key messages and Frequently asked Questions to inform the sector of the shift through bulk SMS's and radio phone-in programmes via GCIS
- Monthly dialogue sessions with the sector on specific themes took place on 27 September 2021, 29 October 2021, 30 November 2021 and 31 January 2022.
- The dialogues are targeting the broader ECD community, including NGO's, donors, ECD service providers, ECD forums etc.



# COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

## IN PROVINCES:

- Provinces to ramp-up communication activities through provincial summits, district roadshows, communication through local newspapers and community radio stations, social media campaigns etc.
- Provincial activities:
  - Eastern Cape: District summits 9 Feb – 25 Feb; Provincial summit held in 2021
  - Free State: District summits 10 Feb – 28 Feb; Provincial summit: 25 March;
  - Gauteng: Regional summits 10 Feb – 10 March; Whatsapp & call centre live from 1 February.
  - KwaZulu-Natal: Provincial summit in 2021; Community radio station communication roll-out in Feb & March
  - Limpopo: Provincial summit in 2021; District summits 25 January – 4 February; Handover event in March
  - Mpumalanga: Provincial summit 24 February; Handover event in March
  - Northern Cape: District summits from 21 Feb – 3 March; weekly radio interviews from 10 Feb – 31 March
  - North West: District summits in 2021; Provincial summit 10 March 2022;
  - Western Cape: 2 summits were held in 2021; social media campaign in February and March.

# CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS:

## Will the DBE now own all ECD programmes?

- Since the largest majority of ECD programmes are owned by non-governmental organisations, communities and private institution rather than the Department of Social Development, they will not be affected by the function shift.
- Rather, the DBE will become responsible to support, subsidise and regulate the programmes according to the specifications in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Children's Act.

# CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS:

## Will ECD programmes have to register with the Department of Basic Education in 2022?

- If an ECD programme is registered with the DSD, their registration status will be transferred automatically to the DBE.
- If an ECD programme's registration status lapses in 2022, they will need to renew their registration with the DBE.
- If an ECD programme is unregistered, they will need to register with the DBE.
- The DBE will follow the Vangasali registration process for all new registrations.

# CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS:

## Will ECD programmes still receive a subsidy?

- Come 1 April 2022, the DBE will become responsible for paying the subsidies exactly the same as how the DSD has been doing.
- ECD programmes should therefore still submit their business plans and apply for funding through the normal process, so that the DBE can continue with the payments from next year onwards.

# CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS:

## What will happen with ECD practitioners' current employment arrangements?

- ECD practitioners are currently employed by ECD programmes and this will remain the case come 1 April 2022.
- The DBE will not become responsible for paying the salaries of ECD practitioners, this will still be the responsibility of the ECD programmes.
- **ECD programmes will remain the employers of ECD practitioners after the ECD function shift.**

# CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS:

## Do all ECD practitioners have to be qualified?

- The DBE is not expecting all ECD practitioners to be qualified *before* 1 April 2022, but are encouraging all ECD practitioners to continue with their professional growth.
- The **ECD qualifications of NQF Level 4 and NQF Level 5 are still relevant**, and the Department would like to encourage all ECD practitioners to strive to attain these qualifications.
- We will be developing an ECD Human Resource Strategic Workforce Plan that will build onto the existing workforce. This plan will outline the qualifications that are available for ECD practitioners; the expectations in terms of competencies, skills and qualifications at different levels; flexible opportunities for training and development including recognition of prior learning; clear career paths and conditions of service.



*Every child is a National Asset*

*Thank you!*

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