



Commissioner for Children



Presentation by: Tara Hendricks, Western Cape Commissioner for Children Child Government Monitor.

My name is Tara Hendricks I'm 14 years old. I met the Western Cape Children's Commissioner in May 2022 through a Child Government Monitor (CGM) in the office.

I was taught about government budgets in 2022 by the Commissioner while on a budget training camp. The aim of teaching children about budgets was to help them understand what the money in government is being used for and where children are included in the budget process. Child government monitors usually make submissions with the Commissioner to inform laws and policies.

The Child Government Monitors decided to make a submission on the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. A few of the main issues discussed by Child Government Monitors were that children were not directly mentioned in the budget statement but issues regarding them were vaguely mentioned, they mentioned how they felt as if they weren't prioritised in the budget statement as well as how they feel the education department and health department should be improved.

We feel as if the budget policy statement would be more child-friendly if simpler words were to be used or if words could have an explanation to them. If colour and fonts are used in the budget policy statement as well as graphs that are easily understandable for children to read will also help with the understanding of the budget policy statement other ways to connect to children and help them understand what the budget policy statement is about and how it works could also be made through Tik Tok skits or

Instagram reels as many children are on social media and some are unaware and uneducated regarding the budget policy statement.

Infographics could also be used to make information simpler.

“Once again children were not considered directly on the MTBPS and it’s saddening. Children were not mentioned but services that affect children were vaguely mentioned like health, education and safety (law enforcement) and it’s sad to see that children aren’t a priority in the country” -Vimbai