



**Commissioner
for Children**

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Western Cape Commissioner for Children

**CHILDRENS INPUTS ON THE 2024 DIVISION OF
REVENUE BILL AND 2023-24 SECOND ADJUSTMENTS
APPROPRIATION BILL – 13 MARCH 2024**

Calls by WCCC following MTBPS 2023

- ▶ **Develop a child-centred and child-friendly governance system**
- ▶ **Consider the debt burden on children**
- ▶ **Reconsider proposed state reconfiguration**
- ▶ **Avoid cuts to social sector spending**
- ▶ **Bolster child welfare and child protection budgets**




Child-centred and child-friendly budgeting

“Child centered means the topic [is] focused on children and speaks about them, child-friendly means a child can understand the [content] and won't have a difficult time understanding”- Imivuyo

- ▶ Children analysed budget speech, infographic and PowerPoint
- ▶ Budget documents were not child-friendly

“Child friendly doesn't just mean colourful” - Johnlee


- ▶ National Treasury has approached WCCC to make budget information more child-friendly
- ▶  Child-centred budgeting requires application of more technical expertise

Debt burden on children



- ▶ Children relieved that VAT rate was not increased
- ▶ They appreciated the 'climate change' tax

"Serves them right, they are damaging our environment and killing nature!"- Liyanda

- ▶ Children concerned about the draw down from the Reserve bank
- ▶ Early access to retirement pension is also concerning
- ▶  Children worry they will pay high taxes and look after financially vulnerable parents in future

Social sector funding

- ▶ Children were happy about inflationary increases to social grants

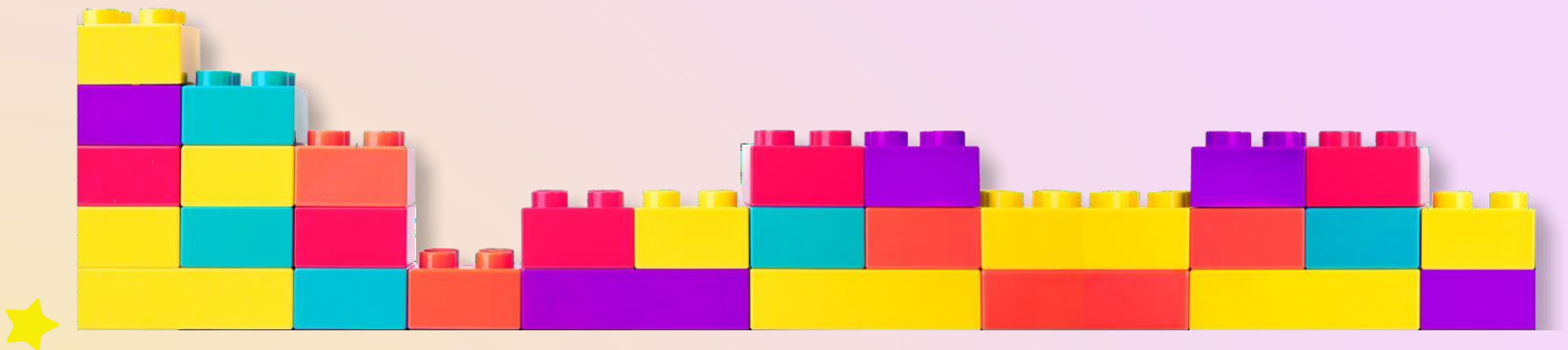
“My nana [granny] was very happy”-Isabella

- ▶ WCCC notes marginal increases of most conditional grants in the social sector
- ▶ Decreases in the foster care grant allocation and national health insurance grant allocation, is confusing



Transfers to provinces

- ▶ Children understand that provinces receive most of their money from national government
- ▶ WC Finance MEC noted that Census 2022 re-ranks WC as the third largest province by population size, not current fifth ranking
- ▶ WCCC wishes to understand if the Equitable Share formula will be amended as a result



Conclusion

- ▶ **Repeat the calls for:**
- ▶ child-friendly and child-centred budgets
- ▶ considering the debt burden on children
- ▶ increase social sector spending to bolster the child well-being and child protection budgets



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