



SOUTH AFRICAN
**Child
Gauge**

2007/2008

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Broad overview of the South African Child Gauge 2007/2008

The *South African Child Gauge* is produced annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, to track South Africa's progress towards realising the rights of children.

The *South African Child Gauge* is divided into three parts:

PART ONE: Children and Law Reform

Part one discusses recent key legislative developments affecting children. In this edition there is commentary on the Children's Act and the Children's Amendment Bill, the Sexual Offences Act, the Education Laws Amendment Act and the Child Justice Bill. See pages 9 – 14.

PART TWO: Children and Social Services

Part two is a series of essays on a theme of critical importance to the realisation of children's rights. In this edition, the essays examine children's constitutional right to social services within the context of a developmental social welfare system. The essays describe and analyse the policies and the law (Children's Act) that are aimed at giving effect to the right, and explore and make recommendations on key budgetary, human resource and implementation challenges. See pages 15 – 59.

PART THREE: Children Count – The numbers

Part three updates a set of key indicators on children's socio-economic rights and provides commentary on the extent to which progress has been made in their realisation. This year the indicators have been expanded to reflect on five years of data. They track the demographics of children, care arrangements, and their access to social assistance, education, housing, health care services, water, sanitation and electricity. The indicators are a special sub-set selected from the Children's Institute website www.childrencount.ci.org.za. See pages 61 – 95.

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Key legislative developments affecting children in 2007

Joan van Niekerk (Childline South Africa), Daksha Kassan & Jacqui Gallinetti (both from the Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape)

Developmental social welfare policies and children's right to social services

Prof Leila Patel (Department of Social Development, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg), Megan Briede (Child Welfare South Africa) & Joan van Niekerk (Childline South Africa)

The Children's Act: Providing a strong legislative foundation for a developmental approach to child care and protection

Dr Ann Skelton (Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria)

Budget allocations for implementing the Children's Act

Linda Biersteker (Human Sciences Research Council and Early Learning Resource Unit), Conrad Barberton (National Treasury), Dr Ann Skelton (Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria) & Prof Christina Murray (Department of Public Law, University of Cape Town)

Human resources needed to give effect to children's right to social services

Antoinette Lombard (Department of Social Work, University of Pretoria) & Associate Prof Andre Smit (Department of Social Development, University of Cape Town)

Making the link between social services and social assistance

Karen Allan (Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security) & Debbie Budlender (Centre for Actuarial Research, University of Cape Town)

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