

# **Broad overview of the *South African Child Gauge 2013***

The *South African Child Gauge* is published annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, to monitor government and civil society's progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses on essential services for young children.

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

## **PART ONE: Children and law reform**

Part one discusses recent legislative developments affecting children. This issue comments on litigation, law reform and policy developments including the Green Paper on National Health Insurance, the Integrated School Health Policy, a High Court ruling on consensual sex between adolescents, a Constitutional Court judgment on schools' learner pregnancy policies, norms and standards for school infrastructure, and the Policy for Social Service Practitioners. See pages 12 – 21.

## **PART TWO: Essential services for young children**

Part two presents nine essays – the first two essays present a rationale for and outline a package of essential services and support for young children, and what is needed to build an effective system for early childhood development. The following six essays explore key service areas including nutrition, maternal and child health, caregiver support, parenting programmes, early learning opportunities and early schooling. The final essay identifies important next steps to improve service access and quality. See pages 22 – 81.

## **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 these rights have been realised. The indicators are a special subset selected from the website [www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za). See pages 82– 114.