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Linda Richter (PhD) is a Distinguished Professor and was the founding Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre of Excellence in Human Development at the University of the Witwatersrand. She led the development of South Africa’s Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy and the 2016 Lancet Series on *Advancing Early Childhood Development: From Science to Scale*. She is Principal Investigator of several large-scale, long term collaborative projects, including the Birth to Twenty Plus Cohort, and she is an advisor on early child development to the World Health Organization in Geneva.

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Ann Skelton has been the Director of the Centre for Child Law for 10 years, where she initiated a strategic litigation project in 2004 which has led the development of child rights jurisprudence in South Africa. She leaves the centre in December 2018 but will remain at the University of Pretoria as Professor of Law and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Education Law. She played a leading role in South African child law reform and is an internationally recognised researcher in child law with many publications to under her name. She has received several international awards and is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

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Alison Swartz holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of Cape Town (UCT). Her doctoral thesis investigated the ways in which youth coming of age in Khayelitsha use their gender identity and sexual partnerships in an attempt to access a more adult form of identity. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a background in Social Anthropology and Public Health. Her previous research and publications have focused on community health workers in Khayelitsha and the synthesis of qualitative data for qualitative systematic reviews. She is currently employed as a lecturer in the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at UCT.

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Zeni Thumbadoo is the Deputy Director of the National Association of Child Care Workers – South Africa and has dedicated her working life to the children’s sector in South Africa. She completed her Masters degree in Child and Youth Care Work and is Vice Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance. She is currently championing the recognition of child and youth care work through the national scale-up of the Isibindi model which aims to develop 10,000 Child and Youth Care Workers serving 1.4 million children in a five-year period.