

The Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, has published the *South African Child Gauge*® every year since 2005 to track progress towards the realisation of children's rights.

The thirteenth issue of the *South African Child Gauge* focuses on children in relation to families and the state, both of which are central to providing for children and supporting their development. It demonstrates the diversity and fluidity of families as they strategize for their own survival, for the development and protection of their children and the realisation of their dreams. It also maps out the policies and services for families and considers ways to increase state support to families and the children in their care.

The Children's Institute aims to contribute to policies, laws and interventions that promote equality and improve the conditions of all children in South Africa, through research, advocacy, education and technical support.

The *Child Gauge* collates and interrogates the latest research evidence from a child-centred and policy perspective. In the process of seeking to make research relevant and accessible to policy-makers and practitioners, it helps to identify blind spots, knowledge gaps and areas for further enquiry.

Linda Richter, Director of the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, University of the Witwatersrand

The annual *South African Child Gauge* is without question the pre-eminent national publication on the subject of children, and society owes a debt of gratitude to the Children's Institute for this evidence-led investment in the future.

Jonathan Jansen, former Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Free State

Within the South African context, the *Child Gauge* fulfils a three-fold purpose. First it mobilises the resources of the university to promote engaged scholarship that seeks to better understand and address the challenges faced by South Africa's children. Second, it makes this evidence accessible to those in government who are responsible for the design and delivery of services for children. Last, but not least, it supports the efforts of civil society and an informed citizenry who can then challenge rights violations and hold government accountable.

Benyam Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
46 Sawkins Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 650 1473
Fax: +27 21 650 1460
Email: info.ci@uct.ac.za
Web: www.ci.uct.ac.za

