

Midrand Office
Montrose Place
2nd floor
Waterfall Park
Bekker Street
Vorna Valley, 1685



Cape Town Office
Constitution House
12th floor
124 Adderly Street
Cape Town
8000

Dear Colleague

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC HEARING: "THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA"; DATE: TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 AND 10 2013

The Financial and Fiscal Commission ("the Commission") is an impartial and independent entity whose role and function is *inter alia* to advise Parliament, provincial legislatures, organised local government and other organs of State on financial and fiscal matters, and to contribute to the development of an equitable and sustainable system of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations (IGFR) in South Africa. It is established in terms of Chapter 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 as amended.

Schedule 4 of the Constitution defines welfare services as a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence. The National Department of Social Development is responsible for the development of policies, norms and standards and monitoring. Provincial Departments of Social Development are responsible for the implementation of social welfare programmes.

On aggregate, services to children constitute nearly half the funding of the welfare services programme for social development, emphasizing the importance of the children sector over other welfare sectors in South Africa. Given the slowdown of the economy and declining revenue, it has become important to protect child welfare services. As a result, the Commission has recently done work on the provision and funding of child welfare services in South Africa and will be conducting public hearings. This presents part of the Commission's ongoing research into the financing of social welfare services. The ultimate objective of the research is to determine a long-term sustainable way of financing social welfare services through the intergovernmental system.

The Commission invites you or an appropriate representative to a Public Hearing on "**The Provision and Funding of Child Welfare Services in South Africa**". The Hearings are planned for **April 9 and 10 2013**. The primary aim of the Hearings is to identify and agree

Commissioners: Bongani Khumalo (Acting Chairperson/CE); Ms Tania Ajam; Ms. Nelsiwe Shezi;

Krish Kumar; David Savage; Ms Lucienne Abrahams

Telephone: +27 11 207 2300; Facsimile: +27 11 207 2345; Web: www.ffc.co.za

on specific areas that need to be reviewed in the provisioning and funding of child welfare services.

Please note that:

1. The draft Report that will guide inputs into and discussion at the Public Hearings is available and can be accessed and/or downloaded at the following URL:
<http://www.ffc.co.za/index.php/media-a-events-interactive/public-hearings/child-welfare-services>
2. You are entitled to make a written submission and/or to present at the Public Hearings provided your submission and/or to presentation is received by the Commission by no later than April 2 2013. The draft Report as well as your inputs will constitute the basis for engagement at the Hearings. The Commission will thereafter finalise its Report and make recommendations to Parliament.
3. Your presentation should be no more than 5 slides.
4. A draft Agenda is attached for your information.
5. The Hearings will be taking place at the **Protea Hotel Waterfront, Corner Gordan Hood and Hendrik Verwoed Avenue, Centurion, Tshwane, GPS Coordinates:** Latitude 25° 51'14.14" S, Longitude 28° 11'10.44" E (GPS should be set to minutes, seconds and split seconds); Telephone +27 (12) 663 8700; Email: reservations@proteawaterfront.co.za. A Map and directions are attached and the venue is easily accessible using the Gautrain.
6. Travel and accommodation arrangements will be your own and for your account.
7. If you are disabled and require assistance, please provide the details of such assistance on the attached reply form.
8. The Commission will provide morning and afternoon tea, soft drinks, as well as lunch on both days. Please provide us with your dietary requirements by completing the appropriate section on the reply form.

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Please **RSVP** to Ms Lydia Ntenga at telephone number 011 207 2350, email address Lydian@ffc.co.za, or Ms Nontsikelelo Tom at telephone number 011 207 2310, email address Ntiski@ffc.co.za, or Ms Ntombizodwa Mabena at telephone number 011 207 2382, email address Ntombizodwa@ffc.co.za or generally to childwelfareservices@ffc.co.za on or before April 2 2013 indicating whether or not you will be able attend and if attending, simultaneously providing us with your formal submission and/or presentation if any.

Also feel free to contact them should you have any queries or require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Bongani Khumalo (Mr.)
Acting Chairperson/ CE
Financial and Fiscal Commission
14 March 2013