



Media Release

THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES SECTOR IS UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE

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For an Equitable Sharing of National Revenue

[14 May 2013] The Financial and Fiscal Commission (the Commission) released a report today on the Funding and Provision of Child Welfare Services public hearings. Child welfare is a sector under severe pressure to transform, to extend service access and to increase service quality, within an environment of limited resources. Non-profit organisations (NPOs), which render the bulk of statutory services on behalf of government, are facing serious financial difficulties because of the increase in demand for their services coupled with a decline in funding and delays in transfers from government. A rethink of the financing and delivery of child welfare services is needed.

South Africa is home to 18.1 million children (of whom 900 000 are orphans). The State has an obligation to provide social services to these children, in terms of the Constitution (Section 7(2) of the Bill of Rights), the Children's Act (amended 2007) and the Child Justice Act. However, the funding and level of services provided vary considerably across provinces. The Commission's research found a distinctive two-tier system of delivering child welfare services in South Africa, with Tier 1 provinces spending up to three times per child compared to Tier 2 provinces.

The Commission's report is a summary of the public hearings and presents a nuanced understanding of the challenges facing the child welfare sector, validated by input from representatives from government, NPOs and other stakeholders. The critical areas include the need for a standardised service delivery model, greater collaboration among stakeholders, better monitoring and evaluation, and a rethink of the funding of child welfare services.

Since its inception, the Commission has been involved in research on the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights of children. This report continues this previous work and is part of the Commission's focus on engaging with stakeholders before making recommendations to Parliament.

To read the entire report, go to <http://www.ffc.co.za/index.php/media-a-events-interactive/public-hearings/child-welfare-services>

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