



POLICY TRACK ON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET VOTE 2014/2015

On 16 July 2014, the Department of Social Development (DSD) presented their budget speech to the National Assembly. [PAN:Children](#) in line with its mandate to provide high quality, timely information to inform policy and decision making in relation to children has highlighted the policy priorities from the budget speech for 2014. In an effort to promote evidence informed policy making, this summary couples the policy imperatives in the budget speech with useful and relevant evidence found on the PAN: Children platform.

In the [budget speech for 2014/15](#) issues relating to children featured prominently.

Social protection for children, early childhood development (ECD), children with disabilities, child and vulnerable youth headed households, child protection and child participation were centrally featured.

In response to the DSD budget vote 2014, this PAN: Children policy note provides an overview of available research evidence and policy recommendations relating to these policy priorities.

SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

In line with its vision to reduce inequality, poverty and encourage greater socio-economic transformation the Minister has highlighted that the provision of social grants is not a luxury but an issue of human rights. The challenges of access to these social protection measures as well as uptake are a matter of priority to the department. PAN: Children has consolidated the most relevant information and evidence relating to social protection for children [here](#) that provides key information on the current state of affairs that will be helpful in policy development, dialogue and knowledge sharing.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Minister also reiterated the government's commitment to making ECD a public good and its plans to implement a comprehensive ECD programme. Please find extensive and key information on the current state of affairs on ECD in SA [here](#).

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

DSD has declared the year 2014/2015 as the year for people with disabilities with the theme, "Protecting and Promoting the human rights of people with disabilities": Towards full participation and inclusion". PAN:Children will focus on this theme and consolidate relevant and important evidence relating to children with disabilities in our upcoming topical guide on children with disabilities. A recent publication on the PAN: Children site titled, *The right of children with disabilities to social assistance in South Africa's progress in realizing child rights: a law review* by Paula Proudlock has policy recommendations relating to children with disabilities [here](#).

CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE YOUTH HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Child and vulnerable youth headed households also formed part of the discussion and is sustained as an area of priority for DSD. In this financial year it aims to finalise the child and youth headed households register. The limited access to social security makes children living in child headed households vulnerable. PAN: Children explores these issues in a forthcoming topical guide on child headed households. Subscribe on the website to be alerted when this topical guide is published.

CHILD PROTECTION

Issues relating to violence against women and children were also highlighted with an emphasis on the provision of psycho social support and referral services. Find a summary on child protection [here](#).

CHILD PROTECTION

One of the challenges in policy development relating to children which was highlighted by the deputy minister relates to child participation. 'Children are not empowered to represent themselves or to be involved in meaningful engagement and to express themselves so there is need to strengthen their voices', said the deputy minister. PAN:Children looks at the latest evidence and practical guidance relating to this in the topical guide on [child participation](#).

CHILDREN @ 20 YEARS

Many of these issues came up in a policy dialogue, *Children@ 20 years: An overview of child-related policy development in the 20 Year Review* hosted by PAN:Children on 16 May 2014. Find full report [here](#). For more information on research evidence included in this note, please consult PAN:Children at children.pan@hsrc.ac.za with any comments or suggestions.