

SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2017/18

# Social Development



The work of the Department of Social Development (DSD) gives effect to Outcome 13 (an inclusive and responsive social protection system) of government's 2014 – 2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTEF).

The department's focus over the MTEF period will be on improving the social development sector through:

- increasing access to social assistance
- investing in and increasing access to quality early childhood development (ECD) services
- reforming and standardising the social welfare system
- expanding social development services
- improving household access to food and nutrition
- strengthening community participation in service delivery.

The strategic goals for the DSD are to:

- review and reform social welfare services and financing
- improve and expand ECD provision
- deepen social assistance and extend the scope of the contributory social security system
- enhance the capabilities of communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods and household food security
- strengthen coordination, integration, planning, monitoring and evaluation of services.

South Africa has made good progress in building social cohesion and promoting a new single national identity. The biggest barrier to increasing social cohesion is the remaining inequality in society, which needs to be attended to.

More than half of all households in South Africa benefit from Government's social assistance programme.

Comprehensive social security alleviates and reduces poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and inequality through a comprehensive social protection system.

Empowering young and old people, those with disabilities as well as women in particular, helps rebuild families and communities.

Welfare services create and provide social protection to the most vulnerable of society through the delivery of social welfare services via provincial government and non-profit organisation (NPO) structures.

## Legislation and frameworks

The DSD is not established in terms of a single Act. Several pieces of legislation determine its mandate, including the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act 13 of 2004), which provides a legislative framework for providing social assistance. The Act sets out the different types of grants payable, as well as their qualifying criteria. It also makes provision for the establishment of the inspectorate for social assistance.

The DSD furthermore derives its mandate from the following legislation:

- The Advisory Board on Social Development Act, 2001 (Act 3 of 2001).
- The Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005).
- The Children's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 41 of 2007).
- The Fund-Raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978)
- The Mental Healthcare Act, 2002 (Act 17 of 2002).
- The National Welfare Act, 1978 (Act 100 of 1978).
- The National Development Agency (NDA) Act, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998).
- The NPO Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997).
- The Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006)
- The Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992).
- The Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008 (Act 70 of 2008).
- The Probation Services Act, 1991 (Act 116 of 1991).
- The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Act, 2004 (Act 9 of 2004).
- The Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 (Act 6 of 2008).
- The Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978). The Act also provides for the appointment of the Independent Tribunal in a way to be prescribed by regulation, and contains a number of technical amendments and corrections.
- In terms of the Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2010 (Act 5 of 2010), beneficiaries and other applicants may now ask SASSA to reconsider the relevant decision before appealing to the tribunal. All applications for appeal must now show that they have gone through the reconsideration process at SASSA.

According to the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030,

South Africa needs to pay careful attention to the design of policies between now and 2030 to ensure that vulnerable groups and citizens are protected from the worst effects of poverty.

These social protection measures proposed seek to support those most in need, including children, people with disabilities and the elderly; and promote active participation in the economy and society for those who are unemployed and underemployed through labour market activation measures, employment services, income support programmes and other services to sustain and improve quality of life.

The plan acknowledges that the country has built an advanced and comprehensive social protection system with wide reach and coverage, but the system is still fragmented, plagued by administrative bottlenecks and implementation inefficiencies.

As a result, the various elements of the social protection system are not operating seamlessly. The priority should be improving efficiency in the delivery of services, addressing exclusions by identifying and reaching those who are entitled to the existing benefits of social protection, reducing the administrative bottlenecks that prevent people accessing benefits.

## Childcare legislation

The Children's Act of 2005 sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children; defines parental responsibilities and rights; and provides for matters such as children's courts, adoption, child abduction and surrogate motherhood.

The Act also:

- gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution
- provides for the issuing of contribution orders
- provides for intercountry adoption
- gives effect to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
- prohibits child abduction and gives effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction
- recognises new offences relating to children
- provides for matters relating to the trafficking of children and the implementation of the relevant protocol.

The Children's Act of 2005 provides for the establishment of the National Child Protection Register that records all people found

unsuitable to work with children.

In terms of this law, childcare facilities, including welfare organisations offering foster care and adoption, are able to check prospective employees, foster parents and adoptive parents against the register.

The register is not open to the public and all requests for information must be directed to the DSD.

The Children's Amendment Act of 2007 provides for:

- the partial care of children
- ECD
- protection of children
- prevention and early intervention services
- children in alternative care
- foster care
- child and youth care centres, shelters and drop-in centres
- new offences relating to children
- the plight of child-headed households
- respect for parental rights by providing that no person may take or send a South African child out of the country without the consent of the parents or guardian
- the discipline of children.

The national guidelines to protect and care for children include the Constitution, the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983), as amended, the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) and the Children's Act of 2005, as amended.

Section 137 of the Children's Act of 2005 proposes new protection measures for child-headed households.

This section defines children from child-headed households, provides for appointing an adult to supervise a child-headed household and allows children in child-headed households to access social grants and other material assistance.

## Budget

The department's budget allocation for the 2017/18 financial year was R160.4 billion. Over the medium term, the DSD will continue to provide social grants to the elderly, children, war veterans and people with disabilities.

These grants boost the incomes of poor households, which bear the brunt of persistent unemployment, poverty and inequality in South Africa.

## Protecting and promoting the rights of children

The DSD, in consultation with a range of stakeholders, has developed a government-wide ECD policy and programme. The objectives of the policy are to:

- ensure that comprehensive, quality ECD services are in close proximity and equitably accessible to all children and their caregivers
- enable parents to lead and participate in the development of their young children through the use of these services
- and to ensure alignment and harmonisation across the different sectors responsible for ECD services.

The Children's Act of 2005 requires the DSD to establish and manage a national child protection register as part of the overall child protection system. The aim of the register is to have a record of all reports of abuse and all convictions, and to use the information to protect children from unsuitable persons.

All persons working with children are meant to be screened against the register. Organisations providing services to children, such as ECD centres, cannot complete their registration process unless they have screened all employees.

## Role players

### Department of Women

The Department of Women is situated in The Presidency. The mandate of the department is to champion the advancement of women's socio-economic empowerment and the promotion of gender equality.

Its mission is to accelerate socio-economic transformation for women empowerment and the advancement of gender equality.

### National Development Agency

The NDA is a public entity, listed under Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

Its mandates are to:

- contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes by granting funds to civil-society organisations (CSOs)
- implement development projects in poor communities
- strengthen the institutional capacity of CSOs that provide services to poor communities
- promote consultation, dialogue and sharing of development

experience between CSOs and relevant organs of State

- debate development policy
- undertake research and publication aimed at providing the basis for development policy.

The NDA supports the work of civil society in key areas of concern.

It is an important partner in the DSD's efforts to promote ECD by using its grants to strengthen the capacities of ECD community-service organisations, which support the department's efforts to reduce violence against women and children by providing key support to the gender-based violence (GBV) sector.

NDA programmes include grant funding, capacity-building and research, policy dialogue and impact assessment.

Capacity-building interventions are geared towards ensuring that recipients of grant funding are not only given money to start and run their projects, but that they are empowered with the necessary skills to ensure sustainability.

The NDA has established the Programme Management Unit, which is responsible for offering project management services to private and public-sector stakeholders who wish to fund poverty-eradication projects.

Particular emphasis is placed on those in the NDA's primary areas of focus, namely food security, ECD, enterprise development and income-generation programmes.

### South African Social Security Agency

SASSA's objectives are to ensure the effective and efficient administration, management and payment of social assistance grants. It manages a large payment system to more than 17 million beneficiaries monthly.

The agency's key strategic focus over the MTEF period will be on putting the required systems in place to transfer the payment function of social grants from a contractor to the agency.

The new gold SASSA card operates fully within the national payment system and it has the following benefits for social-grant beneficiaries:

- Three cash withdrawals from any participating merchant (such as Shoprite, Boxer, etc);
- One free over-the-counter cash withdrawal at the South African Post Office;

- Unlimited free swipes (purchase payments) at all merchants;  
One free ATM balance enquiry per month;
- The only deduction permitted is for funeral policies, up to no more than 10% of the grant value.

### Advisory Board on Social Development

The Advisory Board on Social Development's key functions include:

- advising the Minister on all matters related to social development
- identifying, promoting, monitoring and evaluating policy, legislation and programmes regarding social development
- facilitating dialogue with and the participation of civil society.

### South African Council of Social Service Professions (SACSSP)

The SACSSP is a statutory body with the primary focus of developing and protecting the integrity of the social service professions and the interest of the public at large.

The SACSSP is established in terms of Section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act of 1978.

All professionals who practice any of the social service professions incorporated in the scope of the SACSSP are obliged by the Social Service Professions Act of 1978 to register with the SACSSP. Failure to do so constitutes a criminal offence.

The council guides and regulates the Social Services Professions in the country in aspects pertaining to registration by:

- ensuring compliance by practitioners in order for the sector to be serviced by registered persons, education and training
- ensuring continuing professional development and compliance by training institutions and professional conduct
- ensuring compliance by all registered practitioners in terms of professional and ethical services to communities and individuals.

The council has two professional boards under its auspices:

- The Professional Board for Social Workers.
- The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care.

### Non-profit organisations

The NPO Directorate of the DSD administers the Register of NPOs in South Africa.

It is a voluntary registration facility that enhances the credibility of the registered NPO as it reports to a public office. Registration promotes effective, efficient and accountable management within the sector.

NPOs registered with the DSD are required in terms of the NPO Act of 1997 to submit their annual reports (narrative and financial reports) to the department. This applies to all NPOs registered under the NPO Act of 1997, whether funded or unfunded.

### Programmes and projects 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an annual awareness campaign observed globally.

It addresses policy and legal issues and calls for the elimination of all forms of GBV.

The campaign runs from 25 November, which was officially recognised by the UN in 1999 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

South Africa has added children to the campaign, as there is growing concern about the increasing violence against children.

The campaign ends on 10 December – International Human Rights Day.

Other important days commemorated annually during this 16-day period include World AIDS Day on 1 December and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

The United Nations (UN) has proclaimed 25 November as International Day of No Violence Against Women.

### Project Mikondzo

Project Mikondzo (which means "footprint" in Xitsonga) compels office-bound officials from the department, the NDA and the SASSA to join frontline officials to interact with communities in a bid to tackle social problems such as poverty, malnutrition, violence against women and child-headed households.

The 1 300 wards form part of 23 district municipalities from

seven provinces, which Cabinet has prioritised for additional support.

The project includes an audit of ECD centres and the setting up of a command centre with a toll-free hotline open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also includes a substance abuse awareness campaign targeting sports and music events, the targeting of GBV and the strengthening of NPOs.

The project helps Government reach the about two million children who qualify for CSGs but who have not registered with SASSA to receive grants.

### Anti-Substance Abuse Programme of Action

Alcohol advertising is regulated by the Liquor Act, 2003 (Act 59 of 2003) which outlines the guidelines for liquor advertising. The alcohol industry is self-regulated by the Code of Commercial Communication of Alcohol Beverages, something to which most companies and advertisers adhere.

The Central Drug Authority Board developed regulations for the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act of 2008.

The Act provides for a comprehensive national response for combating substance abuse in South Africa through:

- mechanisms aimed at reducing demand and harm in relation to substance abuse through prevention, early intervention, treatment and reintegration programmes
- registration and establishment of treatment centres and halfway houses
- the committal of persons to and from treatment centres and for their treatment.

In its efforts to reduce incidents of GBV which are often caused by abuse of alcohol and drugs, the DSD has launched the GBV Command Centre (GBVCC) – a 24-hour call centre.

The GBVCC provides support and counselling to victims of GBV. As the Gold Medal Winner, this means the GBVCC is ranked number one in the world in its category.

Victims of GBV are encouraged to contact 0800 428 428 (0800 GBV GBV), a toll free number to speak to a social worker for assistance and counselling. Callers can also request a social worker from the Command Centre to contact them by dialling \*120\*7867# (free) from any cellphone.

The DSD had commissioned a review of the Ke Moja Drug Awareness Campaign to ascertain its effectiveness and strengthen dissemination of information tools.

One of the common drugs, Tik, is sold as a combination of amphetamines and talcum powder, baking powder, starch, glucose or quinine. The drug changes users' behaviour and some symptoms associated with usage of its usage and addiction range from loss of appetite, weight loss, aggression, anxiety, headaches as well as change in dress code.

Health professionals are also concerned about the devastating effects of this drug on the user which among its many effects induces psychotic symptoms, such as seeing or hearing things that are not there, and violence, making it a far more dangerous drug than most other drugs available in South Africa.

Government departments are collaborating with other sectors of society to implement the NDMP to respond to the scourge of drugs and substance abuse.

The Central Drug Authority is charged with the responsibility to develop and implement a coordinated approach encompassing supply control and demand reduction progress.

Provincial substance abuse forums have been established as well as local drug action committees which consists of social workers, teachers, justice and committee representatives.

The UN General Assembly, in its resolutions 42/112 of December 1987, declared 26 June as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

### Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The EPWP is a nationwide programme under the auspices of government and state-owned enterprises.

The programme provides an important avenue for labour absorption and income transfers to poor households in the short to medium term. It is also a deliberate attempt by public sector bodies to use expenditure on goods and services to create job opportunities for the unemployed.

EPWP projects employ workers on a temporary or ongoing basis either by Government, by contractors, or by NGOs under the Ministerial Conditions of Employment for the EPWP or learnership employment conditions.

The EPWP Phase 3 was expected to create six million work opportunities; out of this overall targeted figure the projected work opportunities to be created by the EPWP social sector is 1 037 000 work opportunities by 2019.

### Early Childhood Development

ECD refers to the processes by which children from birth to at least nine years grow and thrive, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, morally and socially. The South African Government recognises that increasing access to, as well as improving the quality of ECD provision, will contribute significantly to improving the learning outcomes of children within the basic education sector.

### Food for All Programme

The DSD is tasked with facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Food for All Programme.

To this end, distressed households were being provided with food through the department and Food Bank South Africa programme.

While this provides short-term relief for poor households, Government recognises that longer-term solutions are needed.

Government is committed to improving its efforts at ensuring food security for all in the country, starting with vulnerable households and communities.

To this end, households have been assisted in establishing food gardens to produce their own food, thus participating in their own development.

### National Minimum Wage (NMW)

In December 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the NMW will be implemented from 1 January 2019. The NMW of R20 an hour represents a marked increase in income for more than six million workers – or 47% of South Africa's labour force – who earn less than R20 an hour. This rate is subject to future adjustments in terms of the NMW Act of 2018.

In February 2017, representatives of government, business, the community sector and two of the three labour federations represented at the National Economic Development and Labour Council signed agreements on measures to strengthen labour stability and collective bargaining and on modalities for the introduction of a NMW.

The social partners reached agreement on modalities for the

introduction of a NMW of R20 an hour. This translates to about R3 500 for those working 40 hours per week and about R3 900 for those who work for 45 hours per week.

The NMW is expected to significantly improve the lives of millions of low-paid workers and begin to address the challenge of wage inequality.

### Job creation and poverty alleviation

The Mid-year population estimates by Stats SA show that South Africa still has a relatively young population. Two thirds of the population is younger than 35 years old. Those aged 15 to 35 years, which are defined as youth, comprise almost 40% of the total population. The youth are also the fastest-growing age group in the country.

This trend creates the prospect for a so-called "demographic dividend", in which resources are invested into activities that promote social and economic development and growth.

South Africa, like most countries, is grappling with the challenge of youth unemployment. Youth unemployment in South Africa is estimated to be 38,6%, with 58% of unemployed people aged between 15 and 34.

Government has recognised the problem of poor economic participation of young people and has put in place numerous policy interventions geared towards bringing youth into the mainstream of the economy to enhance social inclusion and cohesion.

Through the National Treasury and Department of Labour, the DSD introduced youth unemployment policy options for South Africa with the aim of incentivising entities to employ young people.

The National Youth Development Agency has provided the Integrated Youth Development Strategy with the key mandate of implementing interventions geared towards the economic participation of young people, namely, youth work, national youth services, and education and skills relevant to economic empowerment.

Government strives to provide an opportunity to raise the share of youth-owned businesses and to support youth to engage in cooperatives in the country.

The NDP is clear about the need for skills development in promoting economic growth and reaching related goals and the country has done well in the past 20 years of democracy

to ensure that practically all children who should be in primary school are there.

### Access to food

In South Africa, although household access to food has improved since 2002, it has remained relatively static since 2011. The Household Food Insecurity Access Scale, which is aimed at determining households' access to food, showed that the percentage of South African households with inadequate or severely inadequate access to food decreased from 23,6% in 2010 to 21,3% in 2017. During this time, the percentage of individuals that were at risk of going hungry decreased from 29,1% to 24,7%.

Between 2002 and 2017, the percentage of households that experienced hunger decreased from 24,2% to 10,4% while the percentage of individuals who experienced hunger decreased from 29,3% to 12,1.

### HIV and AIDS support

South Africa is continually striving to do more to stop new HIV infections and prevent AIDS-related deaths. In March 2017, the country launched its third five-year National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis (2017–2022) under the slogan “Let Our Actions Count”. The NSP, a guide for the country's response to these infections, seeks to reduce new HIV infections by 63% – from 270 000 in 2016 to less than 100 000 by 2022.

### National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime

The National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime is updated annually in collaboration with the provincial VEP managers or coordinators and their provincial counterparts.

### Children and youth

The Home Community-Based Care programme is the centrepiece of government's interventions to build a protective and caring environment for vulnerable children.

Most services include early identification of vulnerable children and their families, referrals, training of community caregivers and psychosocial support and material assistance, to name a few.

This approach is geared towards keeping children within their families and communities.

It is aimed at providing comprehensive care and support which is

complemented by proactive action at community level. This includes linking families with poverty alleviation projects and other services in the community, such as food security initiatives and ECD services.

With effect from 1 April 2018, the Government Employee Pension Fund has introduced the new Child's Pension, which replaces the Orphan's Pension.

It will no longer be necessary for both parents to die first before a child or children can apply for pension. A child qualifies for Child's Pension up to the age of 22, regardless of whether or not the child is a student.

### Child Labour Programme of Action (CLPA)

The CLPA is a national partnership initiated by Government, civil-society partners comprising organised business, organised labour and NGOs. The lead department is the Department of Labour.

The CLPA is South Africa's roadmap towards the prevention, reduction and eventual elimination of child labour.

The CLPA was first adopted in 2003 after extensive consultation within Government, with a wide range of organisations outside Government and with groups of teenage children involved in different forms of child labour. The programme sets out specific actions to be taken and assigned responsibility for these actions.

The third phase of the CLPA covered the period April 2013 to March 2017.

### Childline South Africa

Childline offers a 24-hour toll-free crisis line (08000 55 555) to children and families across South Africa. It provides immediate assistance to children and families in crisis who need counselling and information. Childline is an NPO that works to protect children from all forms of violence and create a culture of respect for children's rights.

Programmes delivered through the provincial offices include:

- a crisis line
- child rights and education
- training and education of volunteers
- training of other professionals who work with child protection and children
- therapy for abused and traumatised children and their families
- court preparation of child witnesses
- networking and coordination

- lobbying and advocacy
- analysis of law and policy.

### People with disabilities

In March 2016, government released the *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (WPRPD) for public comment.

The White Paper is a call to action for government, civil society and the private sector to work together to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. Government seeks to create a caring and inclusive society that protects and develops the human potential of its children, a society for all where persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as their fellow citizens, and where all citizens and institutions share equal responsibility for building such a society.

The WPRPD is intended to accelerate transformation and redress regarding full inclusion, integration and equality for persons with disabilities.

South Africa has been celebrating the annual International Day for Persons with Disabilities since 1997. According to Statistics South Africa's General Household Survey 2017, some 4,2% of South Africans aged five years and older were classified as disabled in 2016.

Women (4,5%) were slightly more likely to be disabled than men (3,9%). Northern Cape (7,0%), North West (6,4%), and Eastern Cape (4,9%) presented the highest prevalence of disability in the country.

### Blind SA

Blind SA is an organisation for the blind, and is governed by the blind. Situated in Johannesburg, it is aligned with other member organisations throughout South Africa.

Blind SA's main focus is to improve the quality of life of all South Africa's visually impaired people by empowering them through education.

Its objectives are to protect and promote the interests of people with visual impairment and enable all visually impaired people to achieve their optimal potential through independence; and by providing development care for and protecting the rights of those who, owing to circumstances beyond their control, are unable to do so themselves.

Orientation, mobility and skills development to blind and newly blinded people is an important aspect of the work undertaken by Blind SA.

The organisation provides, among other things, study bursaries for visually impaired students for further education, Braille publications in all of South Africa's official languages, Braille training that entails writing and reading, and orientation and mobility training.

### South African Braille Authority (SABA)

SABA's purpose is to set and maintain standards for Braille in all 11 official languages of South Africa.

These standards relate to the development and maintenance of Braille codes; production of quality Braille; the teaching of, access to and promotion of Braille; Braille examinations; and many other Braille-related matters.

Members of SABA include schools for the blind (approximately half the members), consumer organisations of the blind, student disability units, Braille producers and the South African Library for the Blind.

Through SABA, South Africa is a member country of the International Council on English Braille (ICEB).

ICEB membership enables South Africa to stay abreast of and participate in international Braille-related matters.

### South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)

The SANCB is the coordinating body for over 100 member organisations that span the full spectrum of services offered for and to blind and partially sighted people throughout the country.

The SANCB comprises four core business areas, namely social development, the bureau for the prevention of blindness, education and lastly fund-raising and public relations.

To combat as much as 80% of avoidable blindness, the council regularly undertakes tours with its mobile eye care clinics to rural areas for eye screening, referrals and to perform cataract removal operations.

The SANCB provides entrepreneurial training, adult basic education and training, and facilitates skills training such as computer literacy and call centre programmes through its Optima College.

### Support for the deaf

South Africa's national organisation for the deaf is the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA).

DeafSA has nine provincial chapters throughout South Africa.

Two other national organisations for the deaf are Deafblind South Africa and SHHH South Africa, the South African organisation for the hard of hearing.

An estimated 500 000 to 600 000 South Africans use South African Sign Language. As sign language has grown in South Africa – particularly baby sign language – an NPO, Sign Language Education and Development, has been formed to promote sign language.

Signing with hearing babies and children is being promoted through the Signsational Kids website.

South Africa has a long-established deaf education system. Statistics indicate that there are more than 40 schools for the deaf in South Africa. They include:

- De la Bat School (run by the Institute for the Deaf)
- Fulton School for the Deaf
- Kutlwanong School for the Deaf (Rustenburg)
- Kwa Thintwa School for Hearing Impaired
- St Vincent's School for the Deaf (Johannesburg)
- Vuleka School for the Blind and Deaf.

The Institute for the Deaf in Worcester operates Deaf College South Africa, which trains deaf people for jobs.

In addition, the Bible College for the Deaf in Gauteng trains people to work in deaf ministry.

The University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg has a Centre for Deaf Studies. The centre offers programmes in deaf education and focuses on teaching, research and community service.

Among other services, the National Institute for the Deaf provides services for multiple disabled deaf, runs two deaf churches and provides audiological and mental health services.

A Deaf Child Centre at the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town, provides pre-school education and community services. This centre also focuses on deafness research.

The Carel du Toit Centre, based in Cape Town, provides early childhood auditory-oral education.

In addition, the centre engages in community outreaches, helping families with hearing-related needs and more practical needs such as food.

A similar centre is the Eduplex in Pretoria. It provides auditory-oral pre-school and primary school educational services, teaching hearing and deaf children together and provides training to prospective teachers, audiologists and therapists.

### Older people

The DSD promotes a holistic approach to active ageing and well-being among the country's senior citizens. A number of initiatives have been rolled out by the departments of social development, health, tourism, sport and recreation South Africa and other stakeholders to promote general health among older persons, especially through sports to promote general well-being.

The government has since 2008 implemented a national active ageing programme in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002.

The Madrid Plan of Action offers a bold new agenda for handling the issue of ageing in the 21st century. It focuses on three priority areas: older persons and development, advancing health and well-being into old age and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The Older Persons Act of 2006 aims to enhance the quality of life and improve the health of older persons by engaging them in programmes that promote social, physical, mental and emotional well-being to prevent or delay the onset of ageing challenges and keep old age related illness at bay.

The Older Persons' Parliament takes place annually in October. It gives elders the opportunity to engage with the executive on critical issues affecting their lives.

### Training and skills development Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers

The Unemployed Social Workers Database informs the department about the number of unemployed social workers who have studied outside the DSD scholarship programme.

This is in response to the issue raised by communities and the media that there are qualified social workers who are unemployed.

Government mandated the development of strategies to facilitate the recruitment and retention of such scarce skills.

The DSD has been the main driver in the implementation of this social policy. In addition, the NDP indicates that 60 000 social workers will be needed by 2030 to serve the population.

### **Professionalising community development**

The Council for Social Service Professions was established in terms of the Social Service Professions Act of 1978.

The key functions are:

- protecting and promoting the interests of the professions, in respect of which professional boards have been or are to be established and to deal with any matter relating to such interests
- advising the Minister on matters affecting the professions in respect of which professional boards have been established
- controlling and exercising authority regarding all financial matters relating to the council and the professional boards
- assisting in the promotion of social services.