

Tuesday, 27 May 2025]

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PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Annual Activity Report of the Standing Committee on Social Development for the 2024/25 financial year**

The strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities that have an impact on committees are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Kaizer-Philander, WF (Chairperson)

Booyesen, M

Van Minnen, BM

Van Wyk, LD

African National Congress

Kamfer, F

Patriotic Alliance

Stephens, DR

Economic Freedom Fighters

Cassiem, A (EFF)

Alternate Members

Johnson, P (DA)

Masipa, NP (DA)
 Wessels, DJ (DA)
 Lekker, PZ (ANC)
 Windvogel, R (ANC)
 Mbombo, N (DA)
 Marais, G P (FF Plus)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 maintain oversight over the executive.
- 1.2 keep the Department of Social Development accountable.
- 1.3 consider and report on legislation and other matters referred to it by the Speaker.
- 1.4 monitor the implementation of legislation.

In the fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee:

- 1.5 facilitated public participation in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.6 conducted its business in a fair, open, and transparent manner.
- 1.7 promoted cooperative governance.
- 1.8 reported regularly to the House.

2. Reporting department

Department of Social Development

3. Overview of committee activities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Number of committee activities | 24 |
| Number of public hearings | 8 |
| Number of oversight visits | 2 |
| Number of cluster visit weeks | 1 |
| Number of international study tours | 0 |
| Number of provincial bills considered | 1 |
| Number of NCOP visit weeks | 0 |
| Number of NCOP bills considered | 1 |
| Number of committee briefing meetings | 11 |
| Workshops or conferences attended | 0 |

4. Committee activities

On 4 July 2024, Member WF Kaizer-Philander was elected as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development for the Seventh Parliament.

In August 2024, the Department of Social Development briefed the Committee on its Annual Performance Plan for the 2024/25 financial year. The presentation provided an overview of the Department's organisational structure, mission, vision, core functions, key programmes and upcoming legislative initiatives. It also addressed the Department's budget and the challenges faced by implementing its services. This briefing was intended to familiarise the new Members of the Standing Committee on Social Development with the Department's operations and goals for the year ahead.

Later in August 2025, the Department of Social Development presented various programmes and intervention strategies designed to support women in the Western Cape. The Department reported the existence of a National Strategic Plan aimed at providing a multi-sectoral policy framework to address the national crisis of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). This plan seeks to address GBVF across diverse demographics, taking into account factors such as age, physical location, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality and violence against children. The six pillars of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF were outlined, emphasising the need for collective action, leadership, accountability and collaborative efforts to combat GBV.

Regarding the GBV Implementation Plan's institutional framework, the Department of Social Development has appointed a dedicated coordinator to oversee its execution. However, challenges persist, including a rise in GBV cases, an increasing demand for services at Thuthuzela centres and budget constraints affecting the effectiveness of intervention programmes.

In September 2024, the National Department of Social Development briefed the Committee on the Older Persons Amendment Bill [B 11B–2022]. The purpose of the Bill was to amend the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006), incorporating new definitions and provisions related to the monitoring and evaluating social services provided to older persons. The Bill also introduces measures for the removal of older persons to temporary safe care without a court order, alongside improvements to implementation and compliance measures to ensure greater clarity and effectiveness.

At the end of September and the beginning of October 2024, the Standing Committee on Social Development, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness, conducted a joint oversight visit to NGOs in the Garden Route. The purpose of the visit was to assess the quality of services provided to older persons, staff allocation, planned infrastructure projects and renovations for the 2024/25 financial year. The Committee specifically focused on NGOs outside the Cape metropolitan area. During the visit, it was reported that all the facilities encountered similar challenges, including staff shortages, poor infrastructure, lack of resources and insufficient funding. Members posed various questions, all of which were answered, and the visit concluded successfully.

In October 2024, the Committee scheduled six public hearings in different regions to gather input on the Older Persons Amendment Bill. These hearings were held in George, Saldanha Bay, Beaufort West, Worcester, Caledon and Cape Town. Stakeholders were encouraged to attend and provide both verbal and written submissions in line with the NCOP's eight-week cycle and the public participation process required by section 118 of the Constitution and Standing Rule 72. All the hearings were successful, with community members and relevant stakeholders contributing valuable input. The Committee subsequently expressed its support for the Bill.

In January 2025, the Standing Committee on Social Development conducted an oversight visit to the Service Delivery Office of the Department of Social Development (DSD) in Langa. The main objective of the visit was to assess the operational effectiveness of the local DSD office in addressing the welfare and social service needs of the Langa community. The Committee's oversight visit to the DSD Service Delivery Office in Langa was part of the Committee's programme. The Committee also wanted to monitor the effectiveness of social-service delivery across the province. As part of its oversight responsibilities, the Committee evaluated the accessibility, efficiency and quality of services provided by the DSD, with a particular focus on child protection services and

community-based welfare programmes. The visit also included a demonstration of the SWIMS app, which allowed the Committee to assess its functionality and evaluate its impact on service delivery in Langa and the surrounding areas.

In March 2025, the Committee invited Sassa to brief the Committee on the migration process from Sassa gold cards to Postbank black cards, specifically on the progress made with this migration process across the province, Sassa's role and responsibilities in the migration process, details of the verification system and the latest update on the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant in the province. In addition, the Committee also extended the invitation to Postbank to brief the Committee on the migration process from Sassa gold cards to Postbank black cards, specifically on the initial mandate of the Postbank, detailed improvements made since its inception, and any remedial measures implemented to enhance the Postbank and deliver the SASSA grants to the beneficiaries in the Western Cape. Both Sassa and the Postbank attended and briefed the Committee. Members of the public also attended the meeting and were allowed to give input and pose questions to the Sassa and Postbank officials in accordance with section 118 of the Constitution and Standing Rule 72. In addition, in March 2025, the Committee scheduled a follow-up briefing by Postbank and Sassa on the progress made with the migration process from Sassa gold cards to Postbank black cards. Postbank did not attend the meeting, and Sassa attended the briefing and gave a status update on the progress that has been made with the migration process. The meetings were successful. The Committee was part of the Cluster Visit to Beaufort West from 24 to 25 February 2025.

During the financial year under review, the Committee deliberated on the Older Persons Amendment Bill [B 11B–2022]. In addition, the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development for the 2024/25 financial year was considered. Furthermore, the Committee deliberated on Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025].

5. Legislation

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

5.1 Provincial bill

5.1.1 Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024].

5.2 NCOP bill

5.2.1 Older Persons Amendment Bill [B 11B–2022] (NCOP) (section 76 Bill).

6. Facilitation of public involvement and participation

In line with the Committee's mandate to facilitate public involvement in its activities, members of the public were invited to participate in the following:

- 6.1 Discussion on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development.**
- 6.2 Public hearing on the deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024] for the 2024/25 financial year.**
- 6.3 Public hearing on the Older Persons Amendment Bill [B 11B–2022] (NCOP) (section 76 Bill).**

7. Financial particulars

The Standing Committee was given a budget of R186 111 for the 2024/25 financial year. However, the total expenditure during the financial year under review was R445 251,16, which resulted in an overspending of R259 140,16. The budget was used for various activities, including the joint visit of the Standing Committee on Social Development and the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness to NGOs and health facilities in the Garden Route.

The budget was also spent on publishing the deliberations on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development in October 2024, as well as on deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024].

Additionally, some funds were used during the public participation process for the Older Persons Amendment Bill [B 11B–2022] (NCOP) (section 76 Bill), as well as during committee meetings.

2. Report of the Standing Committee on Social Development on its oversight visit to the Horizon Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) in Eerste River on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

The Standing Committee on Social Development, having conducted an oversight visit to the Horizon Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) in Eerste River on Tuesday 6 May 2025, reports as follows:

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

Democratic Alliance

Kaizer-Philander, WF (Chairperson)

Booyesen, M

Van Wyk, LD

African National Congress

Kamfer, F

Patriotic Alliance

Stephens, D R

Economic Freedom Fighters

Cassiem, A (EFF)

Apology

Van Minnen, BM (DA)

Additional Member

Windvogel, R (ANC)

1. Introduction

The 2024/25 strategic objectives of the WCPP, which are linked to the Speaker's priorities, that have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

On Tuesday 6 May 2025, the Standing Committee on Social Development conducted an oversight visit to the Horizon Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) in Eerste River. This visit formed part of the Committee's ongoing mandate to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of child protection and welfare services in the Western Cape.

The primary objective of the visit was to assess the quality of services provided at the Horizon CYCC, to identify operational challenges and to evaluate service delivery under high-pressure conditions. As a secure care facility for trial-awaiting children, Horizon CYCC plays a vital role in the province's child justice system. The visit also aimed at ensuring compliance with national and international standards and at highlighting areas requiring improvement.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the centre's operations, including living conditions, programme implementation and the overall well-being of children in care. Engagements with management and staff members provided valuable insights into both the strengths and challenges of managing a high-risk care facility.

The Committee was welcomed by Minister J Londt, accompanied by senior officials from the Department of Social Development, including Ms L Goosen (Chief Director: Social Welfare and Restorative Services), Ms M Jonkerman (Director: Facility Management), and Mr M Johnson (Facility Manager at the Horizon CYCC). Ms Goosen briefed the Committee on the centre's core services and operational challenges.

Minister Londt commended the Horizon CYCC team for their commitment and the high standard of care provided. He also emphasised key concerns, including the inherent high-risk nature of the environment, the significant operational costs and the financial pressures facing the facility. This report outlines the overview of residential secure care facilities in the Western Cape, the key findings, the challenges observed and the recommendations resulting from the oversight visit.

2. Overview of residential secure care facilities in the Western Cape

Residential secure care centres for children in conflict with the law are facilities that fall under the Department of Social Development, and are managed by the Chief Directorate: Social Welfare and Restorative Services. This directorate is responsible for the provision and oversight of alternative residential care for children in need of care and protection.

The directorate oversees a comprehensive network that includes seven child and youth care centres (CYCCs), one CYCC specialising in substance-abuse treatment, one centre for children with disabilities, and 49 NPO-operated CYCCs delivering substance-abuse treatment in the secure care system.

A centralised management hub coordinates all core functions, including centralised admissions for processing all placement applications for residents. Centralised quality monitoring: ensuring compliance with national and international norms and standards through a centralised administration for overseeing administrative processes and

professional services, and for offering professional specialist services that provide expert support and oversight.

The Committee was informed that, in the Western Cape, a total of 3 618 children are currently in residential care, while approximately 45 000 children are in alternative care settings, such as foster homes. Additionally, 480 children have been placed in the centres of the Department of Social Development (DSD) due to behavioural challenges that their parents were unable to manage. Reasons for these placements include the following: gang involvement, mental health issues, substance use disorders, cases diverted to the Children's Court, gender identity challenges and profound intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, 806 children have been placed in DSD centres due to criminal behaviour. Of the children in care, 72 are receiving psychiatric treatment, and 24 have been diagnosed with disruptive behaviour disorders.

The directorate's strategic objective is the reintegration of children in alternative care into society as responsible, contributing citizens. Its programme delivers comprehensive services aimed at care, empowerment, behavioural transformation and sustainable personal development. The centralised organisational model enhances administrative efficiency, strengthens professional support and promotes coordinated specialist services.

3. Key findings

- 3.1. The Horizon Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC), officially opened in 2000, is designated as a Level 4 secure care facility and is considered the most restrictive environment for the youth in conflict with the law in the province.
- 3.2. Horizon CYCC was initially designed to accommodate 60 children, but its current capacity is 155. Of these, 80 children have been sentenced, others are awaiting trial, and 48 are over the age of 18.
- 3.3. The centre is intended for males aged 13 to 20, including both sentenced youths and those awaiting trial. However, the current resident age range is 18 to 21 years.
- 3.4. The Horizon CYCC is one of seven residential child and youth care centres managed by the provincial Department of Social Development, and it operates at the highest level of security and care (Level 4).
- 3.5. The placement process includes admission, assessment and orientation, thereby ensuring that each child is appropriately integrated into the facility.
- 3.6. A wide range of programmes and interventions are offered at the facility, including care and psycho-social support, social work services, occupational therapy, educational support and on-site tutoring, vocational and life skills training, substance abuse treatment, medical, sports, and recreational programmes, therapeutic interventions, family reunification and aftercare services.
- 3.7. The centre operates under the CESS model, which stands for "care, education and skills, support development, sustainability and restorative practice".
- 3.8. These services align with the Western Cape Government's Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP) to improve the safety and well-being of residents.
- 3.9. The Horizon CYCC staff complement includes a facility manager, four Child and Youth Care supervisors, eight CYCC team leaders, 120 Child and Youth Care workers, five social workers, one occupational therapist, one education manager, eight educators, two professional nurses, one staff nurse, six administrative staff members and seven general staff members (including one driver, three laundry officials and three maintenance staff).

- 3.10. The facility provides six nutritious meals daily, tailored to meet cultural, religious, dietary and medical needs.
- 3.11. Further education and training (FET) are offered from Grade 10 to 12. Some learners attend classes on site, while others are transported to external schools. The latter has presented logistical challenges due to learners being placed in different institutions.
- 3.12. Adult education and training (AET) are also provided to support foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. This programme helps learners who have missed or discontinued formal education to improve their employability and to prepare them for further training or personal development.
- 3.13. The Horizon CYCC has an on-site clinic staffed by nurses employed by the Department of Social Development. The Department of Health and Wellness provides additional psychiatric and specialist medical care at nearby health facilities.
- 3.14. Social work and therapeutic services include counselling, assessments, displaced persons (IDPs) and risk assessments, family reunification, progress evaluations and group therapy sessions.
- 3.15. Behaviour management at the centre emphasises positive reinforcement, including weekly acknowledgements, holiday leave and the possibility of early discharge.
- 3.16. The Committee observed that the facility is generally well-maintained. It features separate residential units by age group, with sleeping quarters, ablution facilities, recreation areas and learning spaces.
- 3.17. A recent infrastructure upgrade valued at R147 272 873 has been completed in alignment with international standards to enhance safety and comfort.
- 3.18. Planned upgrades for 2025 include improved door designs and sustainable electrical systems. The specifications for these upgrades are currently in the tender preparation phase.

4. Success

Some of the successes that were reported during the visit include:

- 4.1. The Department of Social Development (DSD) has implemented an early discharge policy, the only one of its kind across all DSD-owned facilities nationwide.
- 4.2. A centralised management, admission and administrative support system has been established for youths in alternative residential care.
- 4.3. An emergency response team has been formed by the DSD to address incidents of violence at centres.
- 4.4. A multidisciplinary team comprising social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists and nurses has been created to provide holistic support.
- 4.5. The provincial DSD facilities for CYCC have emerged as national leaders, serving as a preferred model and mentor for operational excellence.
- 4.6. Child and youth care centres (CYCCs) operate with structured daily routines and standardised policies
- 4.7. The DSD has adopted a full-service model, with all required services being rendered internally.

5. Challenges

- 5.1. Staff shortages remain a significant challenge; however, recruitment efforts are ongoing to achieve a full staff complement.

- 5.2. The high staff turnover, particularly among education officers, is attributed to the relevance of criminal records in the hiring process, which limits the pool of suitable candidates.
- 5.3. Child and youth care centres (CYCC's) operate in high-risk environments, which present unique safety and management challenges.
- 5.4. Gang activities are prevalent at CYCCs, with reports indicating the presence of 14 distinct gangs, and the most prominent include the Americans, Fancy Boys and Terrible Josters.
- 5.5. The sector operates in a highly legislated and regulated framework, which, while necessary, can be restrictive and can impede operational flexibility.
- 5.6. Budgetary constraints are further intensified by the impact of loadshedding, necessitating the frequent use of fuel-powered generators.
- 5.7. Running a CYCC in line with international standards is financially demanding. It was reported that providing a holistic service to a child costs approximately R40 000 per month.
- 5.8. Frequent damage to infrastructure by children has necessitated significant upgrades, such as the ongoing improvements at the Horizon CYCC.
- 5.9. There is a high incidence of staff-on-child altercations, which raises concerns about safety and the need for improved staff training and oversight.
- 5.10. There is currently no national government policy guiding the early discharge of children from DSD-run CYCCs and the Western Cape has proactively developed its own set of guidelines in this regard.

6. Resolution

The Committee resolved to undertake an oversight visit to the Girls' Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC).

7. Request for information

The Committee requested the Department of Social Development to submit the following information by Friday 30 May 2025:

- 7.1. A detailed report outlining the challenges and needs faced by the Horizon Child and Youth Care Centre, including transversal issues related to the Department of Education.
- 7.2. A comprehensive waiting list for all CYCCs across the province.
- 7.3. The names and contact details of centre managers at all CYCCs in the province.
- 7.4. A detailed report on the expenditure of the infrastructure budget of R147 272 873 allocated to the Horizon CYCC.
- 7.5. Information regarding the planned infrastructure projects of the Horizon CYCC for the 2025/26 financial year.
- 7.6. A detailed report on the legislative challenges experienced at CYCCs, and how these are addressed in the Western Cape Government's policy framework.

8. Acknowledgements

The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation to the Minister and the management team of the Horizon CYCC for their strong leadership and effective maintenance of the centre. The Committee also extended its gratitude to the officials and staff of the centre for their unwavering dedication and commitment, particularly in managing the challenges of a high-risk working environment.