



11/4/1/2/9

Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**The Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport's report on the oversight visit to the Chrysalis Academy, conducted on 11 September 2019**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, having conducted an oversight visit to the Chrysalis Academy, on 11 September 2019, reports as follows:

### **The Delegation**

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport included the following Members:

Mr R Allen (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)  
Ms A Bans (ANC)  
Mr G Bosman (DA)  
Mr F Christians (ACDP)  
Mr M Kama (ANC)  
Ms R Windvogel (ANC)

### **The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:**

Mr W Matthews

### **Apologies**

Apologies were rendered on behalf of Members L Botha (DA) and P Marais (FF Plus).

### **Attendance**

Please see Annexure A for the attendance list.

### **Background**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety conducted an oversight visit

#### **1. Introduction**

The Chairperson opened proceedings by welcoming all present and allowed for brief introductions. The Department of Community Safety's Adv Y Pillay, Chief Director of Secretariat for Safety and Security, and Dr L Meyer, Chief Executive of the Chrysalis Academy, led their respective delegations.

#### **2. Tour of the facilities**

The Committee toured some of the Academy's facilities. These areas included one of the hostel blocks, the resource centre and the technical training workshop area, specifically the electrical and welding sections. The Committee was informed that there is an increase in electrical and welding training for female residential students. Due to a lack of sufficient extractor fans in the workshop areas, the Academy is not fully compliant with Occupational Health and Safety measures. To circumvent the high cost of procuring and installing extractor fans, the Academy agreed to consider pursuing alternative routes such as procuring specialised instructors to train Academy personnel and students to produce extractor fans in-house. The Committee also engaged with non-residential dance students who are part of a collaboration with the Jazzart Dance Theatre.

#### **3. Salient points emanating from the presentation and discussion**

The presentation addressed the Academy's mission, vision and operational objectives, the student intake, the entry requirements and selection process for placement at the Academy. The presentation also addressed the types and outcomes, especially skills and behaviour modification, of the current programmes offered, the tracking mechanisms, and job placement of students following student exits from the programme, budgetary matters and, the major successes and challenges.

The Academy targets mainly 18 to 25 year olds within the Western Cape for each of its three courses per year. There are two courses catering for males and one for females each year. There is on average a 45% to 50% intake of students from rural areas. Following graduation from the course, students are aided in a one year work placement. There are also tracking mechanisms and a five year support system for graduates. The Academy is accredited to offer the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 5 National Certificate in Youth Development. 95% of youth remain in their internship. However, upon completing their internship, about 5 – 7% obtain employment.

The Academy uses a holistic approach to attain physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological enhancement. The daily schedules are regimental in nature with set times clearly allocated for different tasks, classes and activities geared towards this holistic development.

Dr Meyer reported that at least 53% of the students are in need of direct and immediate counselling. Female students are commonly from backgrounds where there is a prevalence of exposure to sexual violence and abuse towards women, unwanted pregnancies, rejection from family and others, depression and the inability to express feelings. Male students, from similar backgrounds, also experience exposure to gang violence, domestic violence, feel the impact of absent fathers, and the outwardly express anger. Through targeting the reparation of these many types of trauma, the Academy looks to increase students' emotional intelligence, equip them with life skills and ultimately unleash the potential that has been suppressed and denied for most of their young lives. There is an overall concern about students' literacy levels. Many students are not at their expected literacy levels given their age.

Although there are a few cases of students with criminal records being accommodated at the Academy, there is generally a practice to not accept those with criminal records. The Academy would welcome affording all applicants the opportunity to reform, however, concerns by the parents of those youth without criminal records, have strongly opposed mixing with applicants who have criminal records. The Academy therefore implements vetting processes that includes interviews with prospective students.

The Academy reported a marked increase in the number of exits and student drop outs. There were 42 exits in the 2018/19 financial year. The breakdown includes 14 exits due to medical reasons, one due to the non-disclosure by a student that s/he had a scheduled court appearance, and 16 requests to exit the programme. There were several dismissals due to violent conduct in the 2018/19 financial year.

Despite these exit cases, the Academy is inundated with applications, ranging from 600 to 1400, for each block of the modular programme. There is a waiting list for those not accepted during an intake. Those persons on the waiting list are re-assessed for the new intake. The Academy can only accommodate 600 to 620 students into its three courses per year. In order to increase the student intake, the Academy would need considerable infrastructural development, especially since the current infrastructure is outdated and requires regular maintenance.

The Academy's main source of funding is the Department of Community Safety. There are partnerships with various stakeholders including the False Bay College. The College offers the Academy students an introductory course to entrepreneurship. Cost of Employment accounts for approximately 38% of the Academy's budget. Catering is also costly with a reported average of R6, 5 million per annum. The Academy does however hire out its facilities. The Academy is also involved with training Peace Officers, a programme sponsored by the City of Cape Town.

#### **4. Request for information**

The Committee requested the Department of the Premier to provide copies of the international North/South TVET Edtech 2019 Conference presentations.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Committee recommended that the Department of Community Safety consider formulating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cape Town Metropolitan Police Department to assist with employment placements for trained Peace Officers. The Department is requested to provide feedback to the Committee on whether or not this recommendation will be implemented.
- 5.2 The Committee recommended that the Minister of Community Safety promotes the marketisation of the Chrysalis Academy to enhance public private partnership to increasing the funding avenues for the Academy.

#### **6. Resolution**

The Committee resolved to send a letter of appreciation to Dr L Meyer commending the work done by the Chrysalis Academy.

#### **7. Vote of thanks**

Member M Kama gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Committee.



**MR RI ALLEN, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT**

# Annexure A



## Western Cape Provincial Parliament Standing Committee on Community Safety

Wednesday, 11 September 2019

Chrysallis Academy, Tokai Road, Tokai

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