

The Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, has been publishing the *South African Child Gauge*® every year since 2005 to track progress towards the realisation of children's rights.

*The South African Child Gauge 2016* is the eleventh issue and focuses on children and social assistance. It also discusses recent policy and legislative developments affecting children in the country, and provides child-centred data to monitor progress and track the realisation of their socio-economic rights.

The Children's Institute aims to contribute to policies, laws and interventions that promote equality and improve the conditions of all children in South Africa, through research, advocacy, education and technical support.

The research presented will help us to better understand the situation of youth in present day South Africa so that our policies and programmes can be relevant to their needs and aspirations. I urge policy-makers and youth development practitioners to read this publication for a better grasp on our work with young people across South Africa.

*Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister in the Presidency: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Youth Development and Administration*

The annual *South African Child Gauge* is without question the pre-eminent national publication on the subject of children, and society owes a debt of gratitude to the Children's Institute for this evidence-led investment in the future.

*Jonathan Jansen, former Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Free State*

For the past decade, year on year, the Children's Institute has placed children on the front page through the *Child Gauge*, its flagship publication, which has become a must-read for every institution, organisation or individual involved with children.

*Marian Jacobs, Emeritus Professor of the University of Cape Town*

We view the work of the Children's Institute, both the research and the policy engagement, as an invaluable contribution to the objective of increasing the use of research evidence in the policy-making and implementation process. The Children's Institute successfully bridges the gap in translating research into products for use in the policy community. Through the Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development's collaboration with the Children's Institute on the *Child Gauge* and supporting innovative policy relevant research, we are able to put children's issues at the forefront of the policy agenda.

*Mastoera Sadan, Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development (PSPPD), Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation*

Children's Institute

46 Sawkins Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 650 1463

Fax: +27 21 650 1460

Email: [info@ci.uct.ac.za](mailto:info@ci.uct.ac.za)

Web: [www.ci.uct.ac.za](http://www.ci.uct.ac.za)

ISBN: 978-0-7992-2531-0

