

Every child is a National Asset

THE TRANSITION TO FORMAL SCHOOLING

Marie-Louise Samuels
Director: Early Childhood Development
Park Inn Hotel, Sandton
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basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Read to Lead
A Reading Nation is a Learning Nation

OUTLINE

- Mandates;
- Progress to date:
- Challenges; and
- Way forward

MANDATES



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ECD IN SDG AGENDA



SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable **quality education** and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Target 4.2: By 2030, countries should: ‘ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education’



INDICATORS FOR SDG 4.2

- **‘Participation rate** in organised learning (1 year before official primary entry age) for all countries’.
- **‘Percentage of children under 5 years** of age who are **developmentally on track** in health, learning and psychosocial well-being’.

ECD IN NDP

- Make ECD a **top priority** among measures to improve quality education;
- Broaden the **definition** of ECD;
- Grade R is currently the **strongest element of preschool learning and support**. It links early childhood development services to primary schools;
- Make **two years of quality pre-school** enrolments for 4 and 5 year olds **compulsory** before Grade 1;
- Define and phase-in a **comprehensive package of services** for all young children; and
- Address the **co-ordination weaknesses** between the different sectors and departments responsible for ECD.
- **Institutional Architecture:**
- There should be a **policy and programme shift** to ensure that the Department of Basic Education takes core responsibility for the provision and monitoring of ECD.
 - Other departments should **continue to provide services** in a supportive capacity.
 - **Resource allocation** should gradually reflect the changes in institutional responsibility for ECD.



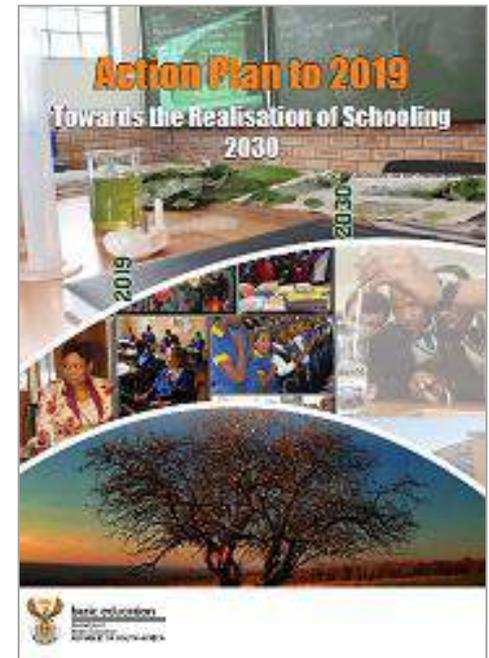
ECD IN ACTION PLAN

GOAL 11:

Improve the access of children to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) below Grade 1.

Indicator:

The **percentage of Grade 1 learners** who received Grade R.





ECD IN MTSF

Outcome 1: Quality Basic Education

Sub-Outcome 4: Improved Grade R and planning for extension of ECD

- **Percentage of Gr R practitioners with appropriate qualification.**
- **Percentage of Gr 1 entrants who attended Gr R that are school ready.**
- **Policy, detailed plans & strategies developed by June 2018 & critical preparatory strategies launched (DSD).**



ECD IN MTSF...(2)

Outcome 13: An inclusive and responsive social protection system

Sub-Outcome 2: Improved provision (improved quality and access) of Early Childhood Development Services for children aged 0-4

- Develop **HR plan for ECD** by 2016/17.
- Develop an **HRD plan for ECD practitioners** by 2016/17.
- Train **20,000 ECD practitioners** at NQF L4 by 2018/19.

PROGRESS



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The **under five-mortality** rate declined to 44 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2016, from 71 in 2002

44

The percentage of children aged 12 to 23 months who received all **basic vaccinations**

61,3%

The percentage of children aged 18 months who **tested positive for HIV**

1,1%

The percentage of children aged 0 - 6 years covered by **medical aid schemes**

14,9%

8 in 10 Children aged 0 - 2 years were born in a hospital

86,3% of children aged 0 - 2 who were issued with birth certificates within one month of birth

92,6% of children aged 0 - 2 were born with a **nurse or sister** present. A **doctor** was present for 61,7% of births

13,4% Percentage of **fathers** present at the birth of their child

31,6% The percentage of children who were exclusively **breastfed**

50,3% The percentage of children aged 12 - 59 months who received **vitamin A supplements**

27,4% The percentage of children younger than five years old who's growth was considered **stunted**. The nutritional status of 2,5% were considered as **wasted**

3,6% The incidence of **severe acute malnutrition** among children younger than five. The fatality rate due to malnutrition was 8,0%.

62,1% The percentage of women who had their first **antenatal visit** before the 20th week of pregnancy

93,0% The percentage of antenatal women who were on **antiretroviral therapy**

76,1% The percentage of women who received **post-natal care** within six days of delivery

5 M Around 5 million young children were recipients of **social grants**

- 4,9 million child support grants
- 27 498 child dependency grants
- 25 824 child support grants

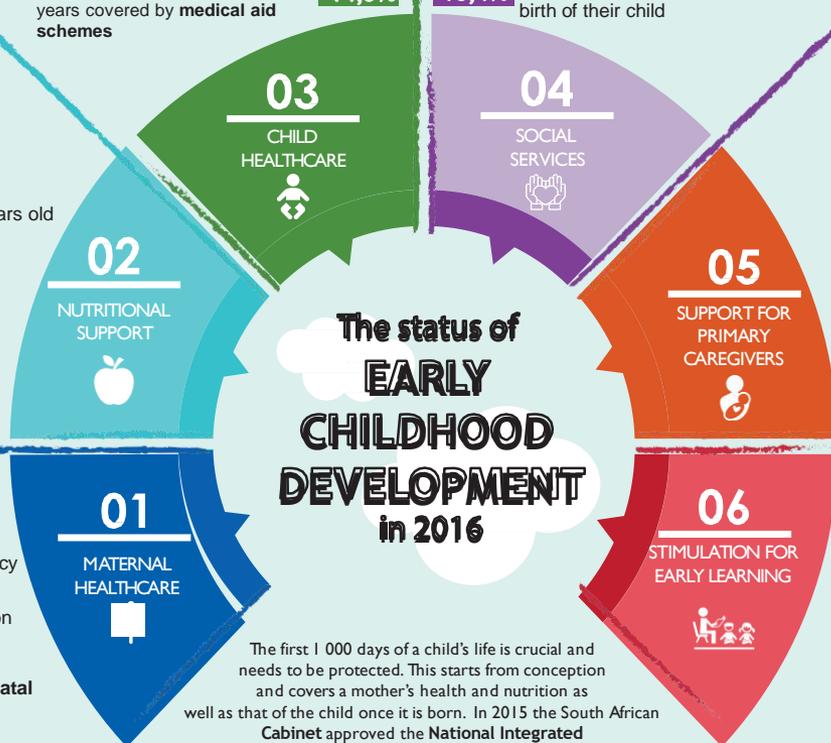
40,0% of children lived with both biological parents while 47,6% of children lived with at least one biological parent

72,9% of children were cared for by a **biological/adoptive or foster parent** while **grandparents** were the main persons taking care of 16,5% of children

46,9% The percentage of children **not attending** an educational institution

74,6% The percentage of caregivers **talking** to children as a form of parenting

54,6% The percentage of caregivers who **often or daily** provided stimulation to children by **reading or telling them stories**



The status of **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT** in 2016

The first 1 000 days of a child's life is crucial and needs to be protected. This starts from conception and covers a mother's health and nutrition as well as that of the child once it is born. In 2015 the South African Cabinet approved the **National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy** that covers six essential components that lay the foundation for the physical and emotional development of all children.

www.statssa.gov.za

Source: Education Series Volume IV: Early Childhood Development in South Africa, 2016

01 Providing mothers with preventative and curative care; screening for early identification, referral and support for both mental and physical maternal health, substance abuse and exposure to violence.

02 Nutritional support is one of the most important tools for children to be able to achieve their full physical and intellectual potential overtime. This includes the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate supplementary feeding.

03 To promote children's health and prevent disease through the provision of quality and effective management of childhood illness, HIV testing and treatment, immunisation, and vitamin supplementation.

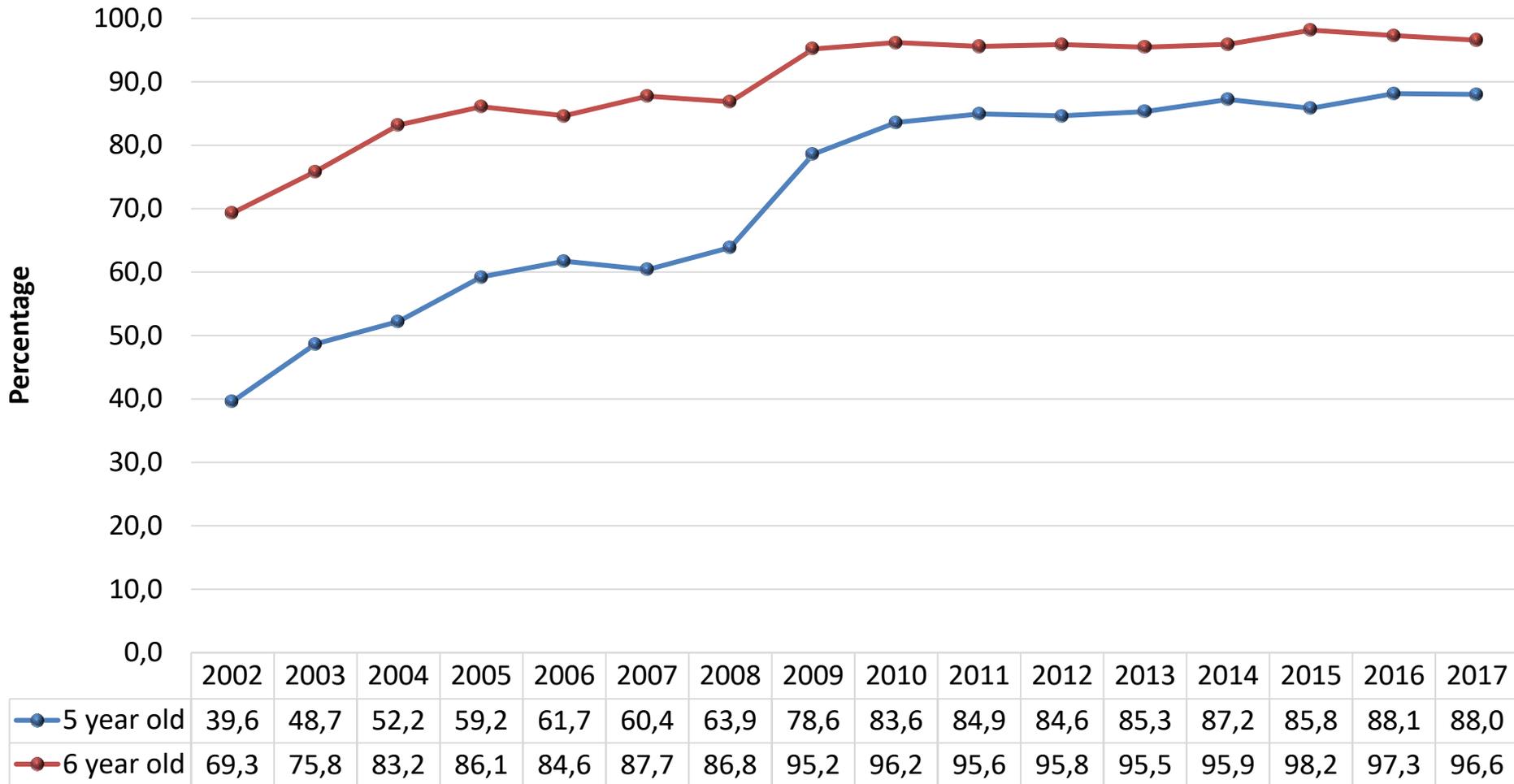
04 Social services includes services provided by government, private and non-profit organisations aimed to create effective access to services, building stronger communities and promoting opportunities and equality.

05 The family is the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children. Parents bear the primary responsibility for upholding a child's development and well-being. Support is essential to promote optimal ECD.

06 Providing children foundations for early learning, socio-emotional, and language development through play and other related activities from birth until they enter formal schooling.

Access to school

Percentage of 5 & 6-year-olds attending an educational institution, 2002-2017



ECD: Achievements

- **Expansion of the Grade R programme**
 - 241 525 enrolments in 2001 to **839 515** in 2017
 - Nearly **95%** of children entering Grade 1 have attended Grade R
- Education participation amongst young children has increased substantially
 - E.g. 40% of 5 year-olds in 2002 increased to nearly 90% in 2017

IN PROCESS

- Human Resource Plan – **draft developed.**
- Percentage of Grade 1 learners ready for school – **in process.**
- Make two years of quality pre-school enrolments for 4 and 5 year olds compulsory before Grade 1 – **draft developed.**
- Percentage of Gr R practitioners with appropriate qualification – **tracking incomplete.**

CHALLENGES

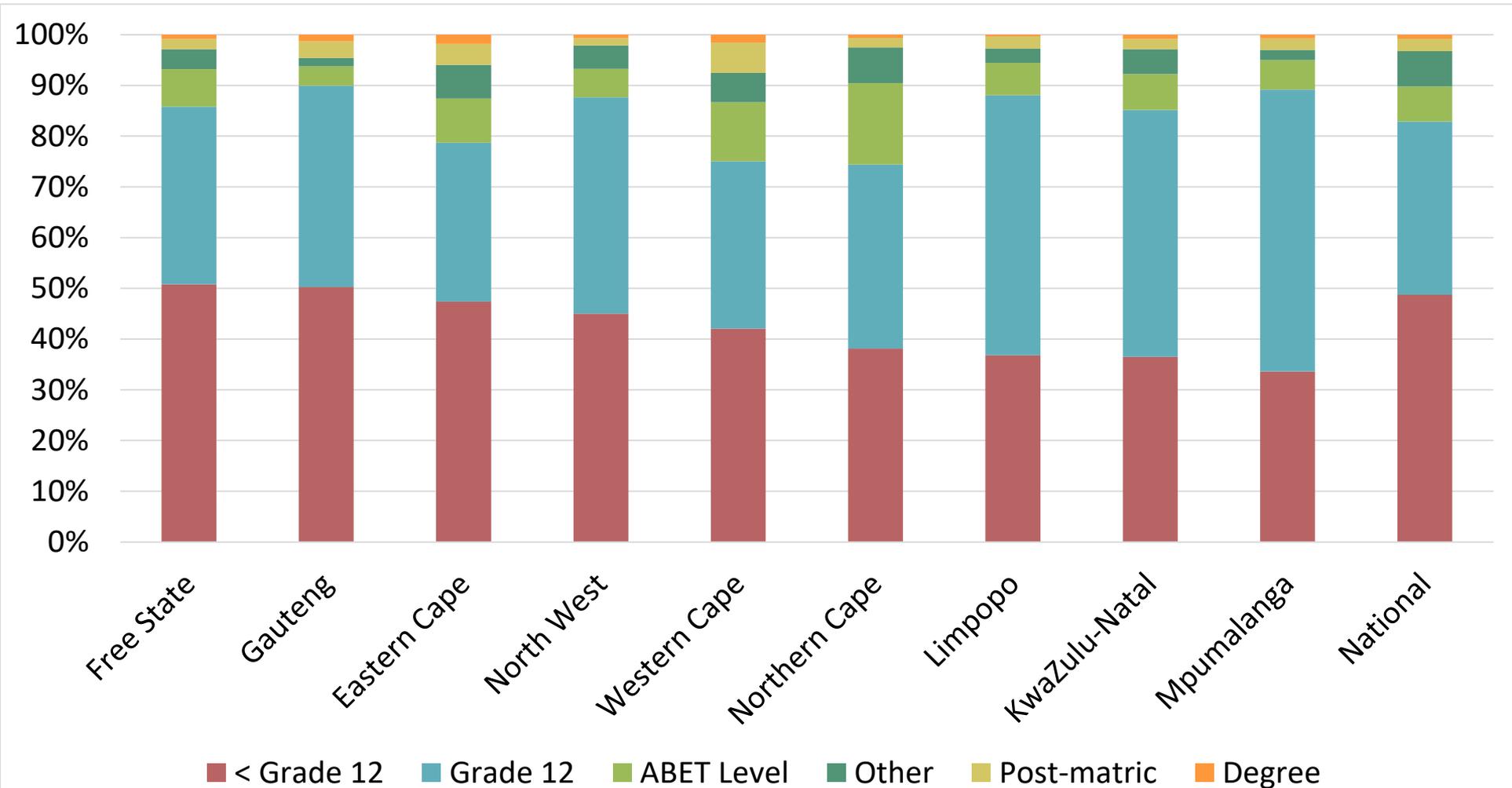


Challenges: Quality of Service Provision

- Grade R impact evaluation (2013)
 - On average, the effect found was equivalent to only 6% of a year of learning in mathematics and 25% for home language
 - Effects concentrated in **stronger provinces** and **wealthier schools**
 - An extra year of schooling at weakly functioning schools needs much more support.
- Two main quality drivers:
 - **Practitioner qualifications** (slow to change)
 - **Pedagogical knowledge** (better in-service support)

Challenges: Quality of Service Provision...(2)

Practitioner Qualifications by Province



WAY FORWARD



WAY FORWARD

- Finalisation of a **comprehensive integrated strategy** for the sector.
- Develop **integrated data-management system**.
- Finalisation of a **comprehensive integrated monitoring system**.
- Strengthen national, provincial and local **interdepartmental and intersectoral structures**.
- Organise an **annual ECD Indaba** to share developments.

“All infants and young children and their families in South Africa live in environments conducive to their optimal development.” National Integrated ECD Policy
(2015)



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Thank you!

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callcentre@dbe.gov.za

callcentre: 0800 202 933