



The Children's Amendment Bill fails the ECD sector

Key issues



Registration



Compliance requirements (Norms and Standards)



Conditional registration



Assistance to providers



Bill – New part on ECD Centres

“Early childhood development centre’ means a centre that provides an early childhood development programme as contemplated in section 91(3) for more than six children from birth to school going age.”

Major issues with the Bill: Registration

What does ECD sector need:

- A simpler, one-step registration process for ECD providers

What does the Bill do:

- Registration more onerous - triple registration required

Major issues with the Bill: Registration

What does ECD sector need:

- Recognition of different types of ECD programme providers

What does the Bill do:

- One-size-fits all approach entrenched

Major issues with the Bill: Norms and Standards

What does ECD sector need:

- Simpler, adequate health and safety standards – duplication removed

What does the Bill do:

- Onerous health and safety standards - more duplication

Major issues with the Bill: Conditional registration

What does ECD sector need:

- A coherent and enabling conditional registration framework

What does the Bill do:

- Confusion regarding conditional registration

Major issues with the Bill: Assistance

What does ECD sector need:

- Assistance to ECD providers servicing poor communities
- Assistance to meet registration requirements

What does the Bill do:

- Prioritising support to ECD providers servicing poor communities made discretionary
- Assistance to partial care facilities who do not meet registration requirements narrowed

Major issues with the Bill: Infrastructure support

What does ECD sector need:

- Infrastructure needs of the sector must be explicitly supported

What does the Bill do:

- Infrastructure funding support to partial care facilities run from private homes, business properties or properties not owned by a non-profit organization prohibited.