

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 2013* is eighth in the series and focuses on essential services and support for young children. This issue also discusses recent legislative developments affecting children, and provides child-centred data on children's access to social assistance, education, health care, housing and basic services.

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.

### What readers say about the *South African Child Gauge*

"The most important investment that we can make as a country is to invest in the well-being and development of our children so that they can go on to lead healthy and active lives. The *South African Child Gauge* makes an important contribution to the debate on how we can best achieve this objective."

*Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission*

"The *South African Child Gauge* is a tremendous resource. What is most useful is the data and the information that it provides. It helps us with lobbying, it helps us with our advocacy work, and it generally informs both practitioners and the public about the situation of children in the country.

*Eric Atmore, Centre for Early Childhood Development/Department of Social Development, University of Cape Town*

"You'll find information here that's near impossible to obtain elsewhere. The Children Count section offers the most authoritative and up-to-date data on the health and well-being of South African children – an essential resource for under- and post-graduate students and health professionals completing child health projects or preparing for exams."

*Professor Haroon Saloojee, Division of Community Paediatrics, University of Witwatersrand*

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