



Our vision

A self-reliant society.

Our mission

To ensure the provision of a comprehensive network of social development services that enables and empowers the poor, the vulnerable and those with special needs.



Who we are

We are the Western Cape Department of Social Development (DSD). Our job is to ensure that a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable network of social development services is provided, in partnership with communities, stakeholders and civil society organisation partners, to enable and empower the poor, vulnerable and those with special needs and develop resilient communities.

Our leaders



Provincial Minister

Mr. Jaco Londt, an elected politician, is responsible for providing strategic policy direction, in line with legislation and government policies.



Head of Department

Dr. Robert Macdonald, the Head of Department, is a public servant appointed to ensure that the Department implements Ministerial and Government directives and mandates efficiently and effectively.

Our values



Caring



Competence



Accountability



Integrity



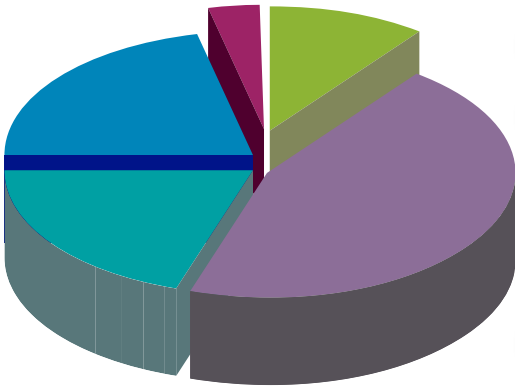
Innovation



Responsiveness



Audited expenditure



Administration R 256.582m



Social Welfare Services R1.119b



Children and Families R493.120m



Restorative Services R531.734m



Development and Research R89.325m

Organisation and staffing

At the end of financial year ending 31 March 2025, the DSD vacancy stood at 29.5 percent of the approved establishment, with 2 416 people employed by the Department. Our services are rendered through six Regional Offices, 53 local offices including 48 service points, three mobile offices and nine government-owned facilities. We also partially fund more than 1 000 social service Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) who assist the most vulnerable in their communities.

Administration

The Department of Social Development has, for the 14th consecutive year, received a clean audit from the Auditor-General of South Africa.

Social Welfare Services

Older Persons

A total of 13 930 vulnerable Older Persons made use of these services, of whom 8 619 accessed community-based care and support services such as service centres and clubs.

Persons with Disabilities

A total of 4 945 Persons with Disabilities and their families or caregivers accessed various services, of whom 1 024 beneficiaries accessed community-based day care centres.

Social Relief

A total of 5 028 families who experienced undue hardship and disasters were assessed and referred to SASSA for humanitarian relief.
15 209 boxes of sanitary pads were dispatched to 261 schools and DSD-funded Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) by March 2025, benefitting female learners across the province.

Children and Families

Care and Services to Families

A total of 27 238 families accessed developmental social welfare services that strengthen families and communities. 36 Shelters for homeless adults received funding, which enabled the funding of 2 392 bed spaces.

Child Care and Protection

A total of 3 018 children were placed in foster care, with a further 119 children reunified with their families or alternative caregivers, bringing the total number of active foster care cases in the province to 42 699 by the end of March 2025. In addition, 3 464 parents and caregivers completed parent education and training programmes.

Early Childhood Development and Partial Care

A total of 112 After School Care (ASC) facilities were registered.

Child and Youth Care Centres

The Department subsidised 2 231 bed spaces at funded CYCCs. Additionally, 626 children in need of alternative care, in terms of the Children’s Act, were placed in residential care within the Department’s own CYCCs.

Community-Based Care Services to Children

A total of 12 398 children accessed community-based care and protection intervention services at the 26 funded Risiha sites and Drop-in-Centres across the province.

Restorative Services

Crime Prevention and Support

A total of 4 221 children identified as at risk received specialised social work interventions designed to address their individual needs. In addition, 5 404 children in conflict with the law were formally assessed. Moreover, 816 youth in conflict with the law were admitted to DSD Secure CYCCs, in compliance with the provisions of the Children's Act (2005).

Victim Empowerment Programme

25 DSD funded GBV shelters continued to provide therapeutic support to 2 042 women and their children who were victims of crime and violence. Further, 24 464 victims of GBV accessed psychosocial support services across the province.

Substance Abuse, Prevention and Rehabilitation

A total of 7 452 clients received substance use disorder services. Additionally, 166 bed spaces were subsidised in funded inpatient treatment centres and 1 443 clients accessed aftercare and reintegration services. The Department registered 26 inpatient treatment centres, 3 halfway houses and 58 CBT sites.

Research and Development

Institutional Capacity Building and Support

A total of 1 433 NPOs were assisted with registration, with an additional 1 760 NPOs capacitated to strengthen their governance and legislation compliance.

Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods

Over 22 100 vulnerable persons were provided with subsidised meals at Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDs) and feeding sites. A total of 873 EPWP participants were provided with temporary work opportunities.

Youth Development

A total of 14 856 accessed Departmental skills development and training programmes at funded Youth Cafés and community-based organisations.

Population Policy Promotion

The Department continued to support provincial and local government entities through training and capacity building sessions, to assist and inform planning and decision-making processes.

This document is an extract from our Annual Report 2024/2025

For a copy of the Annual Report please email:

DSDBusinessplanning@westerncape.gov.za or online at www.westerncape.gov.za