



**Commissioner
for Children**
OF THE WESTERN CAPE

MANDATE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN

ACCORDING TO WESTERN CAPE
PROVINCE CONSTITUTION AND
ACT 2 OF 2019

**The Western Cape
Commissioner for
Children must protect and
promote the rights, needs and interests
of children in the province by working with the
departments of Education, Health, Social Development
as well as Cultural Affairs and Sport.**

The Commissioner for Children is an independent institution from government and reports to Provincial Parliament on activities, functions and progress on objectives.



Monitor

- Establish and coordinate provincial monitoring systems for health services, education, welfare services, recreation and amenities, and sports
- Impact of government services delivered and the impact of policy and laws on rights needs and interests of children
- Identify the patterns, causes and consequences of negative effects on rights needs and interests of children
- Build cooperative relationships with heads of departments, regional Commissioner of Correctional Services, Provincial Commissioner of South Africa Police Service, departments responsible for child justice, service delivery organisations, national and local government roleplayers in child rights
- Any person may request monitoring



Investigate

- Conduct or initiate investigations and enquiries and make recommendations
- Receive, seek to resolve, and investigate complaints about government services
- Determine the procedure for investigations and enquiries
- Subpoena persons to give evidence
- May NOT investigate a matter which is the subject of legal proceedings
- Any person may request investigations



Educate

- Develop and conduct information programmes on the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act, South African Constitution, national child laws, international child rights, international child rights legal instruments, as well as projects and programmes affecting children



Engage

- Develop a child participation strategy for the Office of the Commissioner for Children
- Encourage children to be involved in the work of the Commissioner for Children
- Increase awareness of the mandate, powers and duties of the Commissioner for Children
- Develop communication procedures for children to engage with the Commissioner for Children
- Consult children and organisations working with children on the work of the Commissioner for Children



Advise and Recommend

- To government on policies, laws and practice
- Based on monitoring, investigation or research
- After which a written response or reasons for refusal of recommendations may be required



Research

- Conduct or initiate research to inform development of policy or practices
- Facilitate cooperation and input from public, private, civil society and academic sectors when identifying, undertaking and implementing research



Lobby

- National and provincial parliaments and local councils on systems of family law, indigenous law, and proposed laws affecting children
- Government, organisations, institutions or agencies on policy and practice affecting children
- Request input of public and private sectors for policy development or legislative review



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