

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2018

COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CLUSTER VISIT WEEK 24 TO 27 JULY 2018

1. Introduction

The Social Cluster Visit Week is a key mechanism established by the Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate in the Province. It is intended to ensure that Members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continuously keep abreast of developments and delivery issues in the Province. It also affords an opportunity to undertake oversight visits and interact with communities in order to get first-hand information on the needs and challenges that are confronting the people. The committees also visit projects that are implemented by various government departments in the province. The Social Cluster Visit Week afforded the standing committees an opportunity to visit areas outside the Cape Town metropolitan area. The following standing committees were part of the Social Cluster Visit Week:

Standing Committee on Community Safety;
Standing Committee on Community Development;
Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs and Sport;
Standing Committee on Education; and the
Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters.

2. The delegation

The delegation of the Social Cluster Visit Week included the following Members:

Botha, LJ (DA) (Leader of the delegation)
 Christians, FC (ACDP)
 Gopie, D (ANC)
 Hinana, NE (DA)
 Lekker, PZ (ANC)
 Mackenzie, RD (DA)
 Magaxa, K (ANC)
 Makeleni, P (ANC)
 Mitchell, DG (DA)

3. Overview

The main objective of the Cluster Visit Week was to assess the activities of the facilities and obtain the overall status of these selected social cluster activities.

4. Briefing by the West Coast Education District Office on Tuesday, 24 July 2018

The delegation was received by the District Manager, Ms H van Ster, and her staff. The Head of Management and Governance, Ms De Villiers, led the presentation. Ms A Truter, the Head of Curriculum Support, Ms M Stanley, and Circuit Manager for Circuit 5, Mr G Claasen, assisted with presenting.

4.1 Key aspects

- 4.1.1 The West Coast District has 126 schools that accommodate 60 348 learners, and 70,4% of the schools are Quintile one. This includes 34 farm schools.
- 4.1.2 The District's average matric pass rate was 87,7% in 2016, which was above the province's average matric pass rate of 86%.
- 4.1.3 The District had no unplaced learners by March 2018.
- 4.1.4 About 90% of school hostels are in a good condition. Funding was obtained from Mineral Sands Resources: Tormin Mine for the upgrading of the Nuwerus High School's hostel.
- 4.1.5 The District won some of the Department of Basic Education's National Senior Certificate Awards, namely second place in the Highest Overall Quality Score (1–200 schools) in 2016. In 2017 they won second place in the Weighted Inclusive Basket of Criteria (1–400 schools) and third place in the Percentage Bachelor Passes between 2015 and 2017 (all districts).
- 4.1.6 The ILingelethu Secondary School and the Louwville High School both had a matric pass rate of less than 70% in 2017.
- 4.1.7 The After-school Game Changer programme has 16 MOD centres linked to 16 neighbouring schools.
- 4.1.8 There has been an increase in participation in provincial and national arts and culture competitions such as drama (Artscape, Baxter Theatre, and ATKV); SASCE, and YCAP: Farm School Talent Shows.
- 4.1.9 There has been an increase in participation in sports leagues, particularly at farm schools and among learners participating in provincial and national competitions. Sixty-six schools participated in the cross country leagues, district coaching clinics and tournaments.

- 4.1.10 As many as 7 861 learners are benefitting from the Learner Transport Scheme. To date there has not been any fatalities arising from accidents.
- 4.1.11 The West Coast District is the first in the Western Cape to take learners on an educational outing to Robben Island. This Safe School holiday programme has now been implemented for two consecutive years.
- 4.1.12 The Cove Primary School in Steenberg received first prize in the National Best School Awards.
- 4.1.13 The Jala Peo Initiative seeks to support schools in integrating school food gardens with curriculum delivery, using them as teaching and learning resources for learners from Vredendal and the surrounding areas.
- 4.1.14 Farm schools have multi-grades that receive tool kits with adapted content per subject (national and provincial initiative) and further support takes place in the form of workshops. Where possible, Learner Support Educators are appointed.

4.2 Challenges

- 4.2.1 There has been community pressure relating to the delay in the construction of the new Chatsworth Primary School and the Naphakade Primary School in the West Coast District.
- 4.2.2 Quintile 4 schools and hostels face maintenance challenges as a result of insufficient funding as the majority of the learners come from poorer communities.
- 4.2.3 There is an impact on learner placements in Quintiles 4 and 5 schools, resulting in some schools being oversubscribed. Some schools maintain a teacher-learner ratio of between 25:1 and 35:1.
- 4.2.4 Approximately 37 schools are leasing property from private land owners or religious institutions, making it difficult to address any infrastructure upgrades, renovations or the maintenance of these schools.
- 4.2.5 The learner transport accommodates learners living fewer than 5km from schools even though they are not registered for the Learner Transport Scheme and this is a challenge given the fact that small bus operators are not paid for this service.
- 4.2.6 The gravel roads and wet conditions pose a challenge to transport operators in the District.
- 4.2.7 The increase in the number of learners migrating from other provinces and the higher retention rate have an impact on school resources, learner transport and the nutritional feeding programmes.
- 4.2.8 Service providers from other provinces instead of local contractors are appointed.
- 4.2.9 Some principals find it difficult to monitor service delivery with regard to small bus operators as there are many different learner transport routes.
- 4.2.10 School safety is a challenge as the distances between schools have an impact on response time and there are limited service providers in the rural areas.
- 4.2.11 The West Coast District comprises of 31 000km², making delivery, monitoring and management of schools difficult.
- 4.2.12 There is little parental involvement due to some parents working long hours, most of them being illiterate and the children not having any means of transport to the school.
- 4.2.13 There is an increasing need for the English language in the district. Some schools are not keen to accommodate learners' needs, and use their admission policies not to admit them.

- 4.2.14 Certain schools take advantage of their school admission policy.
- 4.2.15 It is very difficult to recruit and retain suitably qualified and skilled staff members (schools in District). The high turnover rate remains an ongoing challenge.
- 4.2.16 Quintile-determining criteria need to be revised.

4.3 Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDED that the WCED:

- 4.3.1 Investigates the possibility of reviewing the Admission Policy for schools.
- 4.3.2 Briefs the Standing Committee on Education on the Admission Policy for schools in the province and nationally.
- 4.3.3 Investigates the infrastructure of Grade R and whether there is a budget allocation for this phase.
- 4.3.4 Provides further clarity with regard to the number of schools that have requested infrastructure to accommodate Grade R and investigate the possibility of providing mobile classrooms to assist with the increase in the number of children.
- 4.3.5 Implements the Broadband Initiative at farm schools and investigates if these schools could have this additional technical infrastructure, given that they are on private land. The WCED is to assist these schools with getting broadband, if necessary.
- 4.3.6 Assists parents of learners to access schools in order to have greater parental involvement.

4.4. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTED that WCED:

- 4.4.1 Provides the statistics of the 12 top-performing Grade 12 schools in the West Coast District and the reasons for this.
- 4.4.2 Provides the statistics of the two underperforming schools West Coast District and the reasons for this.
- 4.4.3 Provides a copy of the strategy enabling primary school teachers to teach high school learners. The report on the strategy should include whether this intervention is working and if a support system is in place to assist the teachers in the transition from teaching primary school learners to high school learners.
- 4.4.4 Provides the number of learners that have been progressed during the period of 2015 to 2017 from Grades 10 to 12 schools in the West Coast.

5. Oversight visit to the Vredendal District Hospital on Wednesday, 25 July 2018

The Social Cluster's delegation visited the Vredendal District Hospital (hereafter the Hospital) to assess the health services that the Hospital offers, with a specific focus on cataract surgery.

5.1 Key aspects

- 5.1.1 The Hospital is situated in the Matzikama municipal area and it offers health services to 16% of the population in the West Coast District.

- 5.1.2 The Hospital has 75 beds, three inpatient wards, one general theatre, one eye theatre, one emergency centre, and one outpatient clinic for specialised outreach.
- 5.1.3 Other existing health services offered by the Hospital are primary health care services, community-based services, emergency medical services, forensic pathology services and outreach and support services from regional and central hospitals.
- 5.1.4 The Hospital has a bed occupancy rate of 100%.
- 5.1.5 The Hospital provides health services to the communities of Vredendal, Vanrhynsdorp, Klawer, and Lutzville as well as to the surrounding farming community.
- 5.1.6 The staff complement of the Hospital comprises of 3 doctors, 52 nurses, 2 radiographers, 25 administrative staff, 36 ancillary support staff, 1 allied health practitioner, 1 pharmacist, 2 maintenance staff members and 9 sessional doctors.
- 5.1.7 The Hospital has good relations with the private sector. It was reported that general practitioners in the private practice assist at the Hospital after hours.
- 5.1.8 According to the Western Cape Mortality Profile of 2009 to 2013, the burden of diseases, such as TB was at 16%, HIV and Aids at 13% and interpersonal violence at 8%, were reported as the top three pressing health issues in the Matzikama subdistrict.
- 5.1.9 Socio-economic factors such as unemployment, the Grade 12 dropout rate, lack of access to basic services, drug-related crime levels and cases of driving under the influence, are severe in the Matzikama subdistrict and are putting pressure on the health services of the Hospital.
- 5.1.10 The Vredendal Eye Care Centre was opened in October 2016 and the first cataract surgeries were performed in July 2017. Currently the backlog in the treatment of cataracts, and other eye problems, is gradually decreasing. There is a dedicated team for this service that consists of one ophthalmologist, one ophthalmic nurse specialist, one operational theatre manager and one theatre sister.
- 5.1.11 The ophthalmic nurse specialist conducts regular outreach screenings at clinics in Matzikama and the Cederberg subdistricts. According to the statistics of the 2016/17 financial year diseases, including glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, childhood blindness and refractive errors, have been discovered during these screenings and the ophthalmic nurse is currently able to treat the affected patients at her consultation room in the Hospital.
- 5.1.12 When conducting outreach visits at surrounding clinics, the ophthalmic nurse uses the Vula Eye Health App on her smartphone. With this app she takes pictures of the patients' eyes and sends it to the ophthalmic specialists at Tygerberg Hospital, with whom she schedules real-time consultations, meaning that she can commence with treatment immediately afterwards. These innovations not only reduce the travelling costs of patients for ophthalmic referrals but also reduce the number of patients referred to facilities like Tygerberg Hospital and the Eerste River Eye Hospital.
- 5.1.13 The Hospital has a fully equipped state-of-the-art eye theatre, which was donated by Samsung, the Japanese government and other sponsors. The eye equipment allows the ophthalmic nurse to supply the ophthalmic specialists at Tygerberg Hospital with detailed information, enabling them to make diagnoses and propose treatments without having to see the patients in person.
- 5.1.14 The delegation was informed that since the official opening of the Vredendal Eye Care Centre, four different private ophthalmic specialists have performed cataract surgeries on several occasions during the 2016/17 financial year, all of whom have already committed themselves to more surgeries in 2018/19 financial year.

These specialists visit the Hospital twice a month for two days at a time. They visit the clinic and perform eye surgery.

5.2 Challenges

- 5.2.1 The ambulance does a three-hour trip to the nearest referral hospital for CT scans.
- 5.2.2 There is a shortage of emergency vehicles and staff.
- 5.2.3 There is a poor public transport network in the West Coast area. In some areas, people have to drive for hours on bad roads.
- 5.2.4 The Vredendal District Hospital is in a remote area, and finds it difficult to attract and retain qualified and experienced staff.
- 5.2.5 Intersectoral and interdepartmental collaboration: Many of the biggest challenges for health relate to upstream factors and it is impossible to address them without the full cooperation of other departments and organisations.
- 5.2.6 The infrastructure at health facilities in the Matzikama sub district is old and often not fit for purpose. However, the recent renovations and upgrades at the Vanrhynsdorp Clinic were welcomed.
- 5.2.7 Along with the rest of the Department, the Hospital is struggling with budgetary constraints, which affect staffing ratios. In addition, the ageing workforce and lack of sufficient succession planning are also challenges.

6. Oversight visit to the Elizabethfontein Moravian Primary Farm School on Wednesday, 25 July 2018

The delegation was received by the school principal, Mrs A Dames, and her staff, as well as by officials of the WCED District Office. Mrs A Dames led the presentation.

6.1 Key aspects

- 6.1.1 The Elizabethfontein Moravian Primary School is a public farm school established in 1939 and located in Elizabethfontein, a rural town that is 35km from the town of Clanwilliam.
- 6.1.2 The school is registered as a Quintile 1 no-fee public school.
- 6.1.3 The school consists of 25 personnel (principal, teachers, class assistants, administrative clerks and general workers). Nine of the educators are paid by the WCED and five educators are paid by the School Governing Body.
- 6.1.4 The school has, among others, the highest rate of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) among its learners, at 12,4%, which is 2,4% higher than the highest rate previously identified and reported in the town of Aurora.
- 6.1.5 The school has had a pass rate of 80% to 100% over the past four years.
- 6.1.6 The school has 263 learners, of which 85 learners live in the school hostel.
- 6.1.7 As a Quintile 1 school, Elizabethfontein relies on fundraising and sponsorships to pay for additional staff, the transportation of learners, maintenance and learning materials for learners.
- 6.1.8 In addition, the school relies on the National School Nutrition Programme (feeding scheme) as well as its food garden to provide meals for learners.
- 6.1.9 The school hostel offers boarding for both male and female learners, with more than 60% of learners using this facility.

- 6.1.10 The school hostel caters for weekly boarders, and has the following amenities and resources: (i) nine boarding school staff members, including a matron; (ii) communal showers; (iii) male and female dormitories; (iv) two Wendy houses serving as additional dormitory space for learners; and (v) a tuck shop.
- 6.1.11 As part of improving the quality of education, the school has a School Improvement Plan and conducts strategic planning sessions quarterly.
- 6.1.12 The school has international partners in Liverpool, England, Wales and Gaia.
- 6.1.13 The school won R15 000 from the Department of Agriculture for its vegetable garden.
- 6.1.14 After-school Programmes include the Riel Dance (the official school dance team is called the “Betjies Riel Dance Team”), they take part in the yearly ATKV (Afrikaans Taal en Kultuurvereniging) completion. The school has other forms of programmes which includes dancing, drama, athletics and a school choir.

6.2 Challenges

- 6.2.1 The school is built on farmland and the land is privately owned.
- 6.2.2 There is limited technology at the school.
- 6.2.3 Hostel accommodation urgently needs upgrading.
- 6.2.4 There is a lack of sports facilities at the school.
- 6.2.5 Litmus: the environment, social issues the children have to deal with, and the lack of educational involvement of parents.
- 6.2.6 The school has no broadband connectivity.
- 6.2.7 The school receives R2 222 per child who lives in the hostel, but this is not enough to maintain the hostels.

6.3 Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDED that:

- 6.3.1 The WCED, together with the Department of Public Works and Transport, investigate the possibility of a new site for the school, or consider buying the land from the farmer.
- 6.3.2 The WCED provides an action plan to deal with schools built on private land, and this plan should outline the ways in which the WCED would deal with these schools.
- 6.3.3 The WCED urgently assists with the temporary upgrading of the hostel.
- 6.3.4 The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport investigates the possibility of providing a MOD centre and also assists with developing a sports field for the school.
- 6.3.5 The WCED investigates using the Norms and Standards to assist the school with the temporary upgrades.

7. Joint briefing on the Vredendal and Vredenburg South African Police Service (SAPS) Clusters, Clanwilliam on Wednesday, 25 July 2018

The delegation of the South African Police Service was led by Brig Calitz and Brig Bavuma, Cluster Commanders for the Vredendal and Vredenburg Clusters respectively.

7.1 Key aspects pertaining to the Vredendal Cluster

- 7.1.1 The Vredendal Cluster consists of 11 police stations for an area of 40 000km².
- 7.1.2 There were 118 cases of alleged police violence or abuse that were reported by communities in the Vredendal Cluster.
- 7.1.3 The police stations with the highest number of incidents that were reported were Vredendal (44 cases), Vanrhynsdorp (18 cases), Clanwilliam (18 cases), Citrusdal (12 cases) and Lambert's Bay (10 cases). Most of these cases were related to alleged abuse during arrests.
- 7.1.4 No gang-related crime was reported in the Vredendal Cluster.
- 7.1.5 Regarding drug-related cases, there was a marked increase in the Vredendal Cluster. The five police stations reporting the highest increase in drug-related crime between 2015/16 and 2016/17 were Clanwilliam (232 to 331 cases), Vredendal (227 to 317 cases), Vanrhynsdorp (78 to 163 cases), Citrusdal (344 to 409 cases) and Klawer (99 to 159 cases).
- 7.1.6 The SAPS reported that it has increased the number of roadblocks along the N7 route to combat the transport of drugs to and from areas within the cluster.
- 7.1.7 The staffing structure for the Vredendal Cluster reflects that only 487 of the 579 granted posts are filled in respect of deployment across key units. Visible policing (VISPOL), has a shortage of 69 personnel as only 303 of the 372 granted posts are filled. There is a shortage of nine (9) personnel in the number of detectives as 52 of the 61 granted posts are filled. The Clusters' support personnel total 132 of the 146 granted posts, leaving a deficit of 14 personnel. There is no recruitment drive for the Cluster at present.
- 7.1.8 Boarded vehicles are still considered to be part of the vehicle allocation per station until these vehicles are formally written off and removed from the records.
- 7.1.9 There is a vehicle repair centre in Vredendal that services the Vredendal Cluster as well as the areas around, such as Calvinia in the Northern Cape.
- 7.1.10 The strain of this extended service is being addressed at provincial office level.
- 7.1.11 The Nuwerus SAPS has two vehicles at an approved repair garage, one of which has been in for repairs for longer than a month, and the other for two weeks. This police station also has three boarded vehicles.
- 7.1.12 Seven police stations are using operational VISPOL vehicles for court duty, and even to go to the Worcester prison.
- 7.1.13 Juveniles arrested in Lambert's Bay are transported to facilities in George. There are on average three juveniles who are transported to George every week.
- 7.1.14 Overall the Cluster has an actual total of 149 vehicles as opposed to the 141 that have been granted. This total includes vehicles that are in the process of being boarded or repaired.
- 7.1.15 Several police stations in the Vredendal Cluster require varying degrees of upgrading.
- 7.1.16 The average detective to docket ratios in the Cluster range from 50 to 60 per detective.
- 7.1.17 Despite initiatives and awareness programmes, the prevalence of violence against women and children remains problematic.
- 7.1.18 The Junior Commissioner Programme is successful, ensuring leadership among the youth by involving them and mentoring them to become moral, ethical and responsible citizens.

- 7.1.19 The Cluster Community Policing Forum reported that in general all the CPFs in the Cluster have good relationships with the relevant SAPS stations in the 11 precincts.

7.2 Key aspects pertaining to the Vredenburg Cluster

- 7.2.1 The Vredenburg Cluster consists of 10 police stations that are responsible for an area of 642 203km².
- 7.2.2 Communities in the Vredenburg Cluster reported 19 cases of alleged police violence and/or abuse. The three police stations at which these incidents of assault, common or grievous bodily harm were reported were Hopefield (7 cases), Piketberg (6 cases) and Porterville (6 cases).
- 7.2.3 No reported gang-related incidents were reported in the Vredenburg Cluster.
- 7.2.4 Regarding drug-related cases, there was a marked increase in the Vredenburg Cluster, from 2 331 to 2 455 cases. The five police stations reporting the highest increase in drug-related crime between 2015/16 and 2016/17 were Saldanha (198 to 295 cases), Vredenburg (314 to 401 cases), Piketberg (371 to 441 cases), Langebaan (142 to 210 cases) and Eendekuil (39 to 74 cases). However, a marked decrease in drug-related crime was reported in Porterville (742 to 523 cases). The decrease in the statistics for Porterville is a result of concerted efforts to clampdown on the drug trade, largely on drug dealers who had been in prison.
- 7.2.5 The staffing structure of the Vredenburg Cluster reflects that only 541 of the 599 granted posts are filled. In terms of deployment across the key units, the VISPOL has a shortage of 42 personnel as only 320 of the 362 granted posts are filled. There is a shortage of 10 personnel in the number of detectives as 71 of the 81 granted posts are filled. The Cluster's total number of support personnel is 150 of the 156 granted posts, leaving a deficit of 6.

7.3 Information requested

The delegation requested that the South African Police Service provides:

- 7.3.1 A breakdown of the detective to docket ratio for police stations in the Vredendal Cluster.
- 7.3.2 An explanation of the reasons for the lack of upgrades at the Clanwilliam Police Station, the lack of fencing around the area where the holding cells are; the Graafwater Police Station, the lack of adequate toilet facilities for staff; Eland's Bay, the continued use of unsuitable containers as office space.
- 7.3.3 A copy of the current User Asset Management Plan (UAMP) regarding the proposed upgrade of police stations in the Vredenburg and Vredendal Clusters.

The delegation requested that the Department of Community Safety provides:

- 7.3.4 A list of any requests for the upgrading police stations that were submitted by Community Policing Forums in the Vredenburg and Vredendal Clusters.

8. Unannounced oversight visit to the Together We Can Rehabilitation Centre in Eendekuil on Thursday 26 July 2018

The Social Cluster delegation visited the Together We Can Rehabilitation Centre (the Centre) at Eendekuil, outside Piketberg, to assess the programmes of the Centre. This follows allegations that the Centre was not registered and that it was operating illegally. The delegation was welcomed by the Centre's manager, Mr EH Preuss.

8.1 Key aspects

- 8.1.1 The Centre has a total of 7 staff members, who comprise 3 counsellors, 1 social worker, 1 director, 1 nursing sister and 1 rehabilitation manager.
- 8.1.2 The delegation was informed that the Centre did not have a doctor on the site, but that families of clients have the responsibility to fetch their family members and take them to the doctor.
- 8.1.3 The Centre charges a total of R4 300 per client per month and a once-off deposit of R3 500. During the visit there were 80 residential clients.
- 8.1.4 The Centre focuses on addressing the dire need in communities to combat substance abuse.
- 8.1.5 The Centre was established to assist, rehabilitate and reintegrate young people of all races with addiction problems in society.
- 8.1.6 The Centre is not registered. However, the delegation was informed that it was working closely with the regional and provincial Departments of Social Development to finalise the registration process.
- 8.1.7 The Centre reported that it had a 75% recovery rate, although they also have a number of relapse cases. The Centre believes that a lifelong recovery from alcohol and drug addiction is almost a certainty when rehabilitation is managed properly.
- 8.1.8 The Centre assists the addicted persons, putting them back in control and assisting them to function in society again and they help their clients to restore family relationships, teach them how to stay in employment and how to lead a successful, drug-free life.
- 8.1.9 The Centre reported that its programmes are designed and developed to expose and dismantle the deadly denial systems, attitudes and beliefs that initiate and sustain addictions of various kinds.
- 8.1.10 The Centre offers a curriculum and classes that focus on the Therapon Thinking Errors, Celebrate Recovery, Step Work, Just for Today, Aunty June, Dream Builders and DVD teachings. In addition, the Centre also offers group therapy and individual counselling, workshops on personal boundaries, workshops on triggers and relapse prevention, Bible study, cell group (evenings) and many more.
- 8.1.11 The Centre reported that they fostered and nurtured broken relationships with families and restored those relationships by means of conjoint family sessions.
- 8.1.12 The delegation noted that the majority of clients at the Centre were from the metropolitan area in Cape Town and from Springbok in the Northern Cape. Due to the affordability challenge the rehab does not have many clients from the West Coast area.
- 8.1.13 Dr Rossouw, the West Coast regional manager of the Department of Social Development (DSD), also gave input. She informed the delegation that the Centre is not registered and is not compliant in terms of the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13

of 2006). However, the DSD has been communicating with the Centre regarding the registration process. Ms B Fourie, the director of the rehabilitation centre, is compiling all the required registration documents and the department has requested the Centre to submit the documents on or before 30 September 2018. It was reported that the Centre has met all the municipal requirements such as a fire certificate, evacuation plan, health inspection and fire extinguishers.

8.2 Concern

The delegation raised a serious concern about the non-compliance of the Centre and requested the DSD to follow up with the Centre's management to ensure that it becomes compliant and is registered.

8.3 Resolution

The delegation resolved that the Standing Committee on Community Development should schedule a follow-up meeting with the Centre's management and that the DSD should monitor the progress that is made with regard to compliance and registration.

8.4 Information requested

The delegation requested the following information:

- 8.4.1 A copy of the contract between the Together We Can Rehabilitation Centre and its clients.
- 8.4.2 Detailed information on how the Centre prepares its clients' reintegration into communities.
- 8.4.3 A report outlining the marketing strategy the rehab uses to inform and attract communities with drug addictions in the area.
- 8.4.4 The aftercare programme of the Centre once clients are discharged.
- 8.4.5 Detailed information on how the families of clients are involved in the rehabilitation process.
- 8.4.6 The DSD is to send a compliance report of the Together We Can Rehabilitation Centre to the Standing Committee on Community Development.

8.5 Recommendation

The delegation recommended that the rehabilitation centre should work with the Department of Social Development and establish a set menu with the help of a dietitian.

9. Oversight visit to the Youth Café on Thursday, 26 July 2018

The presentation was led by Yolandi Afrika, programme manager of Mfesane, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), and Chrisno du Plessis from the Siyabonga Care Village, a partner organisation of the Youth Café.

9.1 Key aspects

- 9.1.1 The Youth Café in Velddrift was launched by the Western Cape's Department of Social Development at the beginning of 2018. It was established in collaboration by the DSD and the Bergrivier Municipality. However, the rendering of services and day-to-day operations are managed by Mfesane. The DSD is commissioned to manage the Youth Café.
- 9.1.2 The Youth Café is the first of its kind in the West Coast District, and it is the eighth Youth Café in the province.
- 9.1.3 The Youth Café offers training and economic opportunities to unemployed young people, as well as young people who are not in training or studying at a tertiary education institution. This includes young people who are looking for a job or are aspiring entrepreneurs.
- 9.1.4 The Velddrift Youth Café provides the youth with access to the use of computers, high-speed internet access and has a coffee station. As a result the youth are offered a chance to access skills and personal development training.
- 9.1.5 The Youth Café is also a creative space for the youth, and some of the training and development on offer include digital training, entrepreneurship training and leadership development.
- 9.1.10 Young people get the opportunity to be involved in competitions, training opportunities and engagements where they showcase their skills such as arts and crafts. The art and music are utilised in the West Coast and Bergrivier regions.
- 9.1.11 Siyabonga offers unemployed youth opportunities for development and personal growth. The primary focus is on skills development, vocational skills and life skills.
- 9.1.12 About 2 170 community members have visited the Centre since its opening on 12 February 2018. Siyabonga is in the process of recruiting and selecting youth who are interested in enrolling for child and youth care training. These trained youths are not placed in ECD centres, but in Youth Care Programmes.
- 9.1.13 The facilitators of Siyabonga engage with the parents regarding the Game Changer Programmes, and present foster-parenting workshops in collaboration with the DSD and the Youth Café.
- 9.1.14 The staff and interns visit the community by pinning up posters, handing out flyers and advertising on social media to inform the community about workshops offered by the Youth Café.
- 9.1.15 The networking partners, such as the DSD, Ithemba, Salent and Lorika, assist the Youth Café with informing the youth about the programmes offered by the Bergrivier Municipality. The DSD provides transport for the youth from different municipalities to attend these programmes, also enabling the youth from Aurora to attend the youth engagement event.
- 9.1.16 The Youth Café receives a R52 500 monthly grant from the DSD, which includes a stipend for interns, and is for operational and administration costs. The Youth Café building was provided by the municipality at no cost. They are responsible for buying prepaid electricity and for paying the water account.
- 9.1.17 There is no broadband connection at the Youth Café, but they use a Wi-Fi connection.
- 9.1.18 It was reported that substance abuse, unemployment and learners who leave school at an early age result in a high crime rate in the area.

9.2 Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDED that the Department of Social Development considers the possibility of a broadband connection for the Youth Café and provides the Committee with an updated report.

9.3 Information requested

The delegation REQUESTED a report on the collaboration between the Youth Café, Siyabonga and Ithemba, and the list of programmes that they offer the youth of Velddrift.

10. Oversight visit to the West Coast District Academy at the Saldanha Bay Sports Stadium on Thursday, 26 July 2018

10.1 Key aspects

- 10.1.1 The Department reported that there were 73 recognised sporting codes in South Africa.
- 10.1.2 Not all codes that are prominent at the West Coast Sports Academy (the Academy) are necessarily priority codes.
- 10.1.3 The Academy's structure has not yet been fully completed largely due to a lack of operational funds. However, there are plans to expand the staff complement that form part of the revised organisational development structure.
- 10.1.4 The role-players in the Academy include SASCO, tertiary institutions that provide scientific support and research, as well as municipalities. The Saldanha Bay Municipality maintains the facilities at the sports stadium. Federations play a pivotal role in talent identification and in facilitating the development path of outstanding athletes. The Western Cape Sports Association provides funding and coordination for the Academy.
- 10.1.5 Building sustainable partnerships with the corporate sector is another mechanism to assist the academy system. The Academy has a partnership with FutureLife, a smart food nutritional company that provides nutritional products to each athlete each month.
- 10.1.6 There is a tracking system in place to monitor the development of athletes once they have entered the Academy.
- 10.1.7 The Academy is largely funded by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, as well as a conditional grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa.
- 10.1.8 The Department reported that it has signed memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with the Vredendal High School, the Dirkie Uys High School and the Vredenburg High School to accommodate Sport Focus Schools. The Swartland High School, however, has not yet signed the MOA. Discussions to resolve this matter are ongoing.
- 10.1.9 The Department reported that the development of the Academy's facilities is stretched over several phases. In addition to the upgrade of the tennis and netball courts, the overall vision is to create a sports hub based at the Saldanha Sports Stadium.
- 10.1.10 Local companies are also used for the construction of the infrastructure at the Academy.

- 10.1.11 There are currently discussions with the Saldanha Bay Municipality to expand the number of sporting codes that are offered.

10.2 Information requested

The delegation requested that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport provides:

- 10.2.1 An update on the unsigned memorandum of agreement with the Swartland High School. The update should include the context, background, a clear breakdown of the matters of contention, as well as any latest progress, as regards timelines, in resolving the matter.
- 10.2.2 An update in terms of the timelines to provide netball facilities at the Academy.
- 10.2.3 The criteria determining which schools benefit from DCAS funding.
- 10.2.4 Information of the tracking mechanism used to monitor athletes who exit the Academy.

The delegation requested that the Saldanha Bay Municipality provides:

- 10.2.5 Information on whether or not smaller local district companies who have been involved in the ongoing construction of the Saldanha Bay Sports Stadium have been capacitated to compete with larger companies for further phases of the upgrading of the complex.

10.3 Recommendation

The delegation recommended that the Ministers of Finance and Cultural Affairs and Sport look into improving the budget allocation to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport.

11. Meeting with the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereeniging (ACVV) in the West Coast region on Friday 27 July 2018

The ACVV was officially established in September 1904 and is the oldest welfare organisation in South Africa. The organisation provides comprehensive welfare services in the field of early childhood development, child protection services, as well as community-based and residential care of older persons. The ACVV is a major role player in the NGO environment with regards to service delivery to older persons, especially considering that 7 500 older persons receive care in 64 residential facilities of the ACVV across the province.

Each ACVV residential facility has a management board which consists of volunteers from the community. The board members are the employer of the facility. Board members receive no form of compensation for managing the facilities. The manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the residential facility and functions as a link between the management board and the staff of the facility.

The ACVV has seven residential facilities in the West Coast Region, with a total of 451 residents. The facilities of the ACVV in the West Coast are Somerkoelte in Lambert's Bay, with 36 residential clients, Sederhof in Clanwilliam, with 36 residents, Huis Nerina in Porterville, with a total of 64 residents, AJ Liebenberg in Piketberg, with 52 residents, Huis

Moorrees in Moorreesburg, with 104 residents, Bergsig in Riebeeck West, with 45 residents and Aandskemering in Malmesbury, with 114 clients.

Residential facilities are registered by the Department of Social Development in terms of the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006). The facilities provide residential care that primarily targets poor, frail and vulnerable older persons. The facilities have to comply with the norms and standards provided in the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006). All the services of the ACVV focus predominantly on 24-hour frail care.

11.2 Challenges

It is compulsory for residential facilities to meet the minimum norms and standards that are in line with the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006).

The top three challenges that were highlighted by the ACVV in the West Coast area are infrastructure, buildings and sustainability relating to staff and finances.

11.3 Financial sustainability

The Department of Social Development (DSD) subsidises a number of residents in each of the ACVV facilities in the West Coast region. The subsidy amount received by each facility is determined by the number of residents receiving an old age pension (SASSA) or similar income. The DSD annually determines the subsidy amount at the beginning of each financial year. This subsidy, however, is not sufficient, nor can it provide for the mandatory quality of services and the expected standard as these residential facilities run on a shortage. The SASSA residents pay a maximum of 90% of their pension towards their board, and even with the additional subsidy from the DSD it does not cover the unit cost of residents' care. Residents cannot pay, therefore facilities have to raise funds to supplement this deficit. There is a limit to fundraising as other institutions such as schools and churches also have fundraisers to supplement shortages. The higher the number of SASSA pensioners and pensioners with a low private pension there are in a facility per month, the greater the financial shortfall that the facility must find to compensate for this.

Residents are categorised according to their state of frailty, associated with how much care they need:

Category 2 residents need a minimum of nine hours' care per week.

Category 3 residents need 18 hours' or more care per week.

To give greater clarity:

	Monthly income	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
A	R0 – R1 800	-	R937	R3 370
B	R1 801 – R1 899	-	R437	R2 155
C	More than R1 899	-	-	-

Life expectancy is longer, therefore those who believed they had made sufficient provision for their retirement are severely negatively affected by increased costs of living and low interest rates. This has a significant impact on the monthly income of older people. There are a few

residents who can pay more than the unit cost, which helps to reduce the shortage. Furthermore, there are residents who do not qualify for a SASSA grant and cannot afford the unit cost of the facility. Unit costs vary between R6 000 and R8 000 per month.

In the West Coast region there is an ACVV facility with 40 residents whose only income is from SASSA grants. These residents do not have relatives to contribute to their lodging. The facility is responsible for all their needs (toiletries, towels, linen and clothes). The subsidy of this facility was cut by almost R15 000 per month and has had a profoundly negative impact on the ability of this facility to provide for the care of these vulnerable older persons.

The delegation was informed that the DSD has contracted the Institute for Contemporary Research (ICRA) to evaluate facilities about their compliance with the minimum norms and standards of the Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006) and to make recommendations regarding the issue of registration and reregistration certificates.

Most of the ACVV's residential facilities are old buildings. These buildings must be adapted to comply with the prescribed minimum norms and standards, as well as the bylaws of local authorities. Upgrades and changes to these buildings are a priority as fire and safety as well as registration certificates are only issued on achieving compliance, although these certificates are required for business purposes.

It is a challenge to recruit and retain qualified staff, for example managers and registered nurses, as the NGO sector cannot compete with the salaries and benefits provided by the government and the private sector.

The NGOs reported that they also lost domestic staff to local employers who could pay better remuneration packages. It is important for the ACVV that their clients are well looked after by well-trained staff. The ongoing costs of recruitment and training of new staff put financial strain on residential facilities. Indirectly the ACVV empowers and develops a large group of caregivers and domestic staff, but in the end their skills also benefit the local communities and the public sector.

11.4 Concern

The delegation raised a concern that the Department of Social Development has reduced the subsidised funding of some NGOs due to the austerity measures, although it is paying the ICRA for work that could be done by DSD officials. This is on a directive from the national Department of Social Development.

11.4 Successes

- 11.4.1 Residential facilities deliver good services and residents stay in a safe place, are happy and well looked after.
- 11.4.2 Good relationships with the families of the residents are maintained at the facilities. There are seldom complaints.
- 11.4.3 Residential facilities almost always have 100% occupancy, with waiting lists. This is an indication that facilities meet the need of the community. The ACVV rarely rejects the application of any frail person who is in need of an old age facility.

- 11.4.4 Staff are treated equitably and fair. When funds are available, staff are sent for training. The ACVV has manuals, practice codes and policies that are also used for training purposes.
- 11.4.5 The respective communities support the facilities through fundraisers and donations.

11.5 Recommendation

- 11.5.1 The delegation recommended that the Department of Social Development set up a meeting with the Department and the ACVVs in the West Coast area to discuss how the subsidy for residential care facilities could be utilised to address the needs at these facilities.

11.6 Information requested

The delegation requested that the ACVV should submit the following:

- 11.6.1 The Regional Office of the ACVV on the West Coast should submit a spreadsheet that clearly shows a decrease in the number of clients in category 3 compared to the previous financial year.
- 11.6.2 Detailed information on the current capacity of the number of category 3 clients who are in ACVV facilities in the West Coast region.
- 11.6.3 Detailed information of the number of people who were turned away by the ACVV in the past three financial years and the number of people on the waiting list of each ACVV facility.

The delegation requested that the Department of Social Development submits the following information:

- 11.6.4 Detailed budget information of the ICRA contract, the total budget of the contract and for what the DSD is paying the ICRA.
- 11.6.5 Mr Hanekom to submit his plan on how the DSD can change the subsidies of funding per person to subsidies per facility to enable continued rendering of services at residential care facilities in the Province.

12. Oversight visit to the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre for Persons with Disabilities (APD) on Friday 27 July 2018

The presentation was led by the Centre's manager, Ms Van der Westhuizen, who was appointed six months ago. The delegation requested that the board members should be present as they would have more background and information relating to the fraud and corruption that was committed by the former manager of the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre.

12.1 Key aspects

- 12.1.1 The Standing Committee on Community Development visited the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Malmesbury on 18 November 2014.

- 12.1.2 The Committee undertook to visit the NGO at the time to get an in-depth understanding of the allegations regarding the alleged misappropriation of funds by the former manager of the Centre.
- 12.1.3 The Department of Social Development reported on 18 November 2014 that a forensic investigation took place and that a case of fraud and theft had been opened, also that the matter was sub judice. The Centre also filed a civil claim against the former manager.
- 12.1.4 The Committee envisaged revisiting the Centre to establish the status of the alleged misappropriation of funds by the former manager of the Centre and the outcome of the investigation into this matter, case 277/09/2014.
- 12.1.5 The former manager was convicted of theft and fraud in the amount of R800 000. She is currently working and earning R5 000 per month. The court ordered that she pay R800 per month to Jo-Dolphin to recover the amount that was taken. The second payment was made in June 2018.
- 12.1.6 The Department of Health providing financing for 15 children and the DSD subsidies the other 5 children. The DSD's subsidy is R1 171 unit cost per child per month, which is for the provision of meals and running the programme. The DSD also contributes R1 093 towards transport costs.
- 12.1.7 There are currently 3 caregivers and 1 volunteer at the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre. The ratio is one caregiver to eight children. The DSD subsidy is R1 250 towards the caregivers' salaries. The caregivers attend training at the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disabilities once a week to improve and add to their skills, lending the necessary assistance to the children at the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre who have different disabilities.
- 12.1.8 Jo-Dolphin was operating in Wesbank, but they were not allowed to do any renovations as the building belonged to a private owner. The current building in Malmesbury was paid in full by a sponsor and the NGO belongs solely to the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre.

12.2 Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDED that the Jo-Dolphin Swartland Centre, the board members and the DSD provide a written report on the status of the matter relating to the fraud and corruption committed by the former manager. The report should include the amount of money that was stolen and over what period; the outcome of the criminal conviction and the charge in the civil case; the reason why the fraud and corruption was not detected during the quarterly reporting process; the process to blacklist the accused; the timelines of the offence; and the measures that were put in place so that this could not occur ever again.

13. Oversight visit to the Vooruitsig Primary School in Darling on Friday 27 July 2018

The delegation was received by the school's Acting Principal, Mr J Salmoen, Deputy Principal, Mr R Lewis, and their staff, as well as by officials of the WCED District Office. Mr R Lewis led the presentation.

13.1 Key aspects

- 13.1.1 The Vooruitsig Primary School is a public school established in 1967 and is located in the town of Darling.
- 13.1.2 The school accommodates 1 555 learners from Grade R to Grade 9. Ten of those learners have special educational needs. The school is predominantly Afrikaans-medium and has now begun offering Xhosa as a first language.
- 13.1.3 Vooruitsig is one of five replacement schools built in the West Coast District in the 2013/14 to 2015/16 financial years. The new school was constructed with a budget of R656 million.
- 13.1.4 The school has 40 classrooms, a computer laboratory, a science laboratory, a specialist classroom and a library.
- 13.1.5 The school launched the Literacy and Assisted Homework Programme in August 2017, and is called the “Vooruitsig Dream Club”. It is an extension of the school’s aftercare programme, which is operated by the Darling Community Policing Forum. The programme targets learners with low literacy levels, who often display disruptive classroom behaviour, and who are at risk of dropping out of school.
- 13.1.6 The school has had a pass rate of 77% to 98% in the past four years.
- 13.1.7 The teacher to learner ratio is 1:39.
- 13.1.8 The school relies on the National School Nutrition Programme (feeding scheme) to feed a total of 501 learners.
- 13.1.9 There is no MOD centre at the school, which makes it difficult for the learners to participate in sporting activities.
- 13.1.10 The Vooruitsig Primary School has been chosen as one of the universal schools targeted for E-learning in the Western Cape, which will include the following:
- Internet connectivity through the WCED schools domain. Wireless connectivity has been extended beyond the staff room and its computer.
 - The school refurbished 20 old Khanya Laboratories computers as no equipment was provided for the new computer room.
 - The school received 20 new computers as part of the WCED’s broadband project.
 - Although all of this will be made available, owing to the school’s size one computer room is insufficient for exposing all the learners to ICT.
 - The school has 20 tablets, which were also updated with educational apps.
- 13.1.11 The school has after-school programmes, which were initiated by the CPF and sponsored by the Darling Trust. The programmes focus on dropouts and absenteeism. It was started in 2017, with a focus on Grades 3 and 4.

13.2 Challenges

- 13.2.1 Specialisation classes are used as normal classrooms.
- 13.2.2 The borehole water is not connected to tanks.
- 13.2.3 The winter months pose a real challenge as learners have to stay inside the building during break.
- 13.2.4 The rugby field is not usable as the salt content of the soil makes it difficult for grass to grow.
- 13.2.5 Classrooms have more than 45 learners to every teacher.

- 13.2.6 The socio-economic factors have an impact on the school programme, e.g. drug use, and gangsterism.
- 13.2.7 The Grade 8 and Grade 9 classes cannot be accommodated inside the new building. There is a dire need for a high school in Darling as learners have to travel to neighbouring towns in order to attend secondary school.
- 13.2.8 The classrooms are still too few.
- 13.2.9 Systematically getting test results up to an acceptable level is a challenge at the school.

13.3 Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDED that:

- 13.3.1 The WCED provides the statistics for the number of learners who were expelled and the reasons.
- 13.3.2 The WCED provides the statistics for the number of learners who dropped out of school and the reasons.
- 13.3.3 The WCED provides the statistics for the absenteeism among teachers.
- 13.3.4 The WCED considers providing mobile classrooms in order to accommodate Grade 12 learners while the new high school is being built.
- 13.3.5 The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport investigates the possibility of providing the school with a MOD centre.

14. Conclusion

The Delegation successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced at the various sites that were visited. The facilities that were visited need support for their endeavours to succeed in the challenges that have been noted in this report.

15. Acknowledgements

The Social Cluster Delegation thanks the management of the different facilities that were visited for their willingness to share valuable information with the delegation. A special thank you was conveyed by the delegation to the support staff for the successful cluster visit week and for the professional service they provided to the members of the Social Cluster. The support staff include Mr Ben Daza, Ms Nomonde Jamce, Ms Waseemah Achmat, Ms Mary-Anne Burgess, Mr Anwill Barends, Ms Wasiema Hassen-Moosa and Mr Waseem Matthews.

Report to be considered.