

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO ACVV PIKKIELAND ECD IN CAPE TOWN AND BO-KAAP DAYCARE CENTRE IN BO- KAAP

28 FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted oversight visits to ACVV Pikkieland ECD in Cape Town and Bo-Kaap Daycare Centre in Bo-Kaap on 28 February 2023, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Education included the following Members:

Baartman, DM (Chairperson of the Committee)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
Fry, C (DA)
Plato, D (DA)
Sayed, MK (ANC)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Overview

As part of an effort to ensure the provision of quality education and care for children in the Early Childhood Developmental stage, oversight visits to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres have become part of the Committee programme. On such visits, the objective is to critically assess the learning environment, staffing, and programmes available at the centres. This report presents a detailed account of the various points covered during the oversight visits to the two ECD centres.

2. Visit to the AVCC Pikkieland ECD in Cape Town

Ms M Pretorius, the principal of the ECD welcomed and briefed the Committee.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at the Centre

The first point of assessment when visiting the centre was the learning environment. The centre's learning environment is conducive to learning while providing safety and security for learners. The overall environment of the centre is clean. The rooms are well ventilated and there is adequate lighting.

In addition, the learning environment has the necessary equipment to support learning, such as tables and chairs that are appropriate for learners. Safety measures such as emergency exits, first aid kits, and emergency contact information are easily accessible to both teachers and learners.

On April 1, 2022, the Early Childhood Development Directorate was transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Western Cape Education Department (WCED). In the third quarter, there were 1599 registered sites in the Western Cape. The ACVV (Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereeniging) has 13 funded sites, and 636 children are funded by the WCED. The transfer payment amount is R2 854 368.00 for the 2022/23 financial year.

2.2 The infrastructure projects and Maintenance

According to Ms. Pretorius, the WCED ECD Conditional Grant for 2023 will be utilised to build classes for younger learners. To date, however, no structural improvements have been made to the centre.

The second aspect evaluated during a visit to the ECD centre was staffing. It is crucial that centres have the right number of trained and qualified staff and the right ratio of teachers to learners. Currently, the centre has 210 learners and 14 teachers. The centre offers a holistic developmental baby programme, focused on the stimulation of young minds, nutrition, health care and protection. The programme covers the age group of 3 to 18 months. The ACVV baby programme is accredited by the Department of Social Development.

Almost all staff are qualified with either NCF Level 4 or 5. In addition, the centre has continued its training programmes to improve the skills and expertise of its teachers. Training for the NCF is provided by the City of Cape Town for registered and unregistered sites since 2017.

The third aspect assessed during the oversight visit was the programmes that are tailored to the different learning abilities and developmental levels of the learners. The curriculum is designed for age-appropriate that are stimulating and by engaging the learners in various activities. Currently, 40% of the allocated budget is used for nutrition.

The fourth aspect assessed during the oversight visit was the administrative policies in place at the centre. The administration provides a feedback mechanism to ensure continuous improvement. Parents are regularly updated on the child's progress by a form that provides daily progress of the learner's day.

The enrolment numbers have somewhat recovered since the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the ECD meets the requirements, there is a need for more funding from the WCED. The ACVV has partnerships and receives funding from the WCED and the Department of Social Development.

3. Visit to the Bo-Kaap Day Care Centre in Bo-Kaap

Ms S Daniels, the Principal of the Centre, welcomed and briefed the Committee.

3.1. Key aspects discussed at the Centre

The Centre is part of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) services designed to promote early childhood development. The Bo-Kaap Day Care Centre is considered an ECD partial care service. It offers the following services to the community: home visiting programmes, playgroups, play centres, and spatial ECD programmes.

The Bo-Kaap Day Care Centre is a registered and reliable facility that provides essential childcare services to residents of the Bo-Kaap. However, the facility faces a challenge as its registration is due to expire in September 2023.

Re-registration is an essential part of ensuring that childcare facilities comply with national and provincial regulations, policies, and standards. The initial registration of the Bo-Kaap Child Care Centre provided assurance that the facility was able to provide safe, adequate, and appropriate care for the children entrusted to its care.

Registered centres can also access training and development opportunities that can improve the quality of care and education provided to the children in their care.

Ms. Daniels indicated that the communication of WCED training for teachers is an area that needs to improve. Also, the re-registration process should start early with both the WCED and the Social Section Organisation.

The daycare centre is in the process of re-registering in the coming months after the deadline. The facility currently has 45 learners enrolled with five teachers. According to Ms. Daniels, four teachers are fully qualified, and one is unqualified.

The Centre follows a programme linked to the National Early Learning and Development Standards for Children Birth to Four Years (NELDS) and the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS).

Ms. Daniels informed the Committee that the Centre has not applied for funding because it operates on its own budget. The Centre also subsidises underprivileged learners. The Centre enjoys full support and has served generations of families in the Bo-Kaap community. The centre reported that there has been no vandalism or break-ins, although according to the socio-economic profile of the area, this is an anomaly as many areas have experienced vandalism or break-ins.

4. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the WCED:

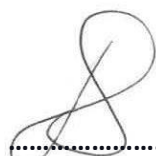
- 4.1. Communicates all its practitioner training, such as the NCF curriculum and leadership to the ECD centre.
- 4.2. Must commence the re-registration process timeously using the Social Sector Organisation sector. This way it would ensure that all ECD centres get assistance.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, oversight visits to ECD centres are crucial in ensuring the provision of quality education and care for learners in their early developmental stage. During such visits, the various aspects that define the quality of care offered to learners are assessed. The learning environment, staffing, programmes available, and administrative policies are among the essential factors considered. The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visits and took cognisance of the incredible work done by both Centres.

6. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanked the WCED, principals, and teachers of all the ECD Centres visited.



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ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: 13 June 2023