

# Children's Amendment Bill

## Progress Update

17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

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### 1. Call for submissions on the Children's Amendment Bill [B19B of 2006]

The Portfolio Committee on Social Development has called for written and oral submissions on the Children's Amendment Bill [B19B of 2006]. The deadline for written submissions is the **8<sup>th</sup> August 2007**. Oral submissions and verbal evidence may be given at a series of community consultations during the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007 see programme below.

### 2. Programme for Community Consultations

1. Mpumalanga - Elikwatini, 15:30 and Mayflower, 09:00 on 13 August 2007.
2. Mpumalanga - Acornhoek (Bushbuckridge), 14 August 2007 at 09:00.
3. Limpopo - Giyane, 14 August 2007 at 15:30.
4. Limpopo - Thohoyandou, 15:30 and Mokopana, 09:00 on 15 August 2007.
5. Eastern Cape - Mthatha and surrounding areas, 16 August 2007 at 09:00.

6. North West - Rustenburg and surrounding areas, 17 August 2007 at 09:00.

### 3. Contact Details for the Committee Secretary

If you wish to make a submission or for further information please contact:

Ms Zola Vice  
Committee Secretary  
Portfolio Committee on Social Development  
Parliament  
Box 15  
Cape Town  
8000

Tel: 021 403 3755  
Cell: 083 709 8397  
Fax: 021 403 2808  
E-mail: [zvice@parliament.gov.za](mailto:zvice@parliament.gov.za)

If you are going to make a verbal submission to at one of the community consultations, we suggest that you take the following steps as soon as possible:

- Contact the Committee Secretary, let her know that you would like to participate and give a verbal submission, ask to be informed of any last minute changes to the venue or time of the consultation.
- Write a draft submission and circulate it to other organisations in your network or sub-group to consult further and to obtain endorsement (See below for contact details).

### 4. Writing your own submission

The Children's Amendment Bill was substantially amended by the NCOP so please check your submission against the latest version of the Bill [B19B of 2006], which is available on the Children's Institute website at:

<http://ci.org.za/depts/ci/plr/pdf/bills/ChildrenAmendmentBill2006.pdf>

The attached document “**a guide to making submissions**” gives practical advice on how to structure and format a submission. There are also a number of other documents on the Children's Institute website that will assist with content. The submissions that were made by organisations at the public hearings in the provinces between September 2006 and March 2007 are available on the Children's Institute website at:

[http://ci.org.za/site/includes/content/PolicyLawReform/projects/sub\\_topic\\_parliament.html](http://ci.org.za/site/includes/content/PolicyLawReform/projects/sub_topic_parliament.html)

The national umbrella bodies and networks that are part of the Children's Bill Working Group also wrote submissions to the Department of Social Development in June 2006 that contain specific recommendations and proposed amendments to clauses. These documents were written for the use of the Department of Social Development drafters, and senior officials in the Department that work with the Children's Amendment Bill everyday. While the grids will also be useful for the MPs, it is better to send MPs a

descriptive document, with case studies and real examples of what is happening on the ground, to provide the context for these recommendations. Your submissions should be based on your own experiences, but please feel free to draw on the grids and the submissions that have been written by other organisations and networks if you need guidance.

## **5. Who to speak to for more information on the content of the Children's Amendment Bill**

The Children's Bill Working Group is a network of networks. It has representatives of all the child sector umbrella bodies and representatives of the churches, trade unions, legal experts and academic institutions. The Children's Bill Working Group was established in March 2003 with the aim of promoting debate and decision-making that is informed by:

- child rights,
- evidence, and
- consultation with the children's sector.

We are all committed to this aim in order to ensure that the new law is drafted in a way that will provide workable solutions to the major challenges facing children in the areas of social services and protection from abuse and neglect. The Children's Bill Working Group is divided into nine sub-groups that work on specific issues relating to the Children's Amendment Bill. Spokespeople are as follows:

- Children with disabilities: Sue Philpott 084 681 2016 – PhilpottSue@gmail.com;
- HIV/AIDS: Wanjiru Mukoma 082 423 8515 – Wanjiru.Mukoma@uct.ac.za;
- Discipline of children: Sam Waterhouse 084 552 9646 – sam@rapcan.org.za;
- ECD and partial care: Mary Newman 0783115827 - pmarynewman@gmail.com
- Protection: Megan Briedé 084 551 1751 –briedem@childwelfaresa.org.za
- Prevention and early intervention: Carol Bower 083 777 3793 – bower.carol@googlemail.com;
- Role of Schools in child protection: Kevin Roussel 072 361 9632 – kevin@cie.org.za
- Child and youth care workers and centres/care in the community/ and child headed households: Zeni Thumbadoo 082 418 7915 – zeni@naccw.org.za
- Children on the streets: Sam Mokgopha admin@kidshaven

If you want general information, please contact

Lucy Jamieson: 021 – 689 8303 or 083 458 9075

Paula Proudlock: 021 685 1583

Joan van Niekerk: Childline South Africa 083 303 8322

Jackie Loffell: 082 454 0991

## **6. Other ways of getting involved**

Invite MPs on a visit to your organisation and the children and community that you work with. They are on constituency period until 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Access the contact details at <http://www.ci.org.za> via the Children's Bill link (look under the "contact government decision makers heading") and select Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

*Networks and key organisations in the Children's Bill Working Group:*  
Aids Law Project, University of Witwatersrand

Aids Legal Network (ALN)  
Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security (ACCESS)  
Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD)  
Child Welfare South Africa  
Childline SA  
Children's HIV/AIDS Network WC (CHAIN)  
Children's Institute, University of Cape Town  
Children's Litigation Project, University of Pretoria  
CINDI  
Community Law Centre, UWC  
Dikwankwetla  
Disability Action Research Team  
Disabled Children's Action Group (DICAG)  
Early Learning Resources Unit (ELRU)  
Johannesburg Child Welfare Society  
Lawyers for Human Rights  
Molo Songololo  
National Alliance for Street Children  
National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers (NACCW)  
National Early Childhood Development Alliance  
National Welfare and Social Development Forum  
Network Against Child Labour (NACL)  
Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN)  
SANAC children's sector network  
SA Congress for Early Childhood Development  
Soul City  
South African Council of Churches (SACC)  
South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect  
Southern African Catholic Bishops Congress (SACBC)  
Trafficking Task Team