



## Commissioner for Children

15 September 2020

**For Attention:** Ms Nomonde Jamce

Procedural Officer

Standing Committee on Social Development

**By Email:** [njamce@WCPP.GOV.ZA](mailto:njamce@WCPP.GOV.ZA)

Dear Ms Jamce

### **Submission on the Social Assistance Amendment Bill [B8-2018]**

The Commissioner for Children supports the amendments to the Social Assistance Act relating to the Child Support Grant (CSG). The amendment enables family members who care for orphaned children to receive a higher CSG. This is better than applying for Foster Care Grants which takes more time from social workers and courts to ensure smooth administration. This frees social workers up to do more work with families, which is a necessary violence prevention approach.

In addition, the Commissioner for Children notes that children have the right to be involved in all decisions affecting their lives. Thus far, children have not been adequately included into the law-making processes. For example, the group of children who attended the interviews of the Commissioner for Children were not asked their views. It is important that we evolve law-making processes and become a more mature democracy where everyone, including children, finds a way to be heard by decision makers. Very soon, we are likely to see the call for public hearings to make input into amendments to the Children's Act. This is an ideal opportunity to develop a process for children's hearings and involvement in Parliament. The Commissioner for Children will support, especially, the Western Cape Parliament to develop a child-friendly process for hearing children's inputs.

Sincerely

**Christina Nomdo**  
**Western Cape:**  
**Commissioner for Children**