

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

## FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION 114

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### **Rev P Moatshe to ask the Minister of Education:**

(1) Whether her department received any complaints from Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres that money budgeted for allocation to them does not reach them; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether her department will take any steps to ensure that the money reach these centres; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

**C174E**

### **REPLY:**

(1) The Department of Education has received four letters of complaint from ECD centres that funding allocations have not been received. These complaints were related to the payment of subsidies to grade R practitioners and have all been resolved.

The current position regarding funding allocations to grade R classes is as follows:

- The provincial education departments fund the salaries of practitioners and/or the purchase of equipment for grade R classes.
- This funding is either paid directly to the practitioners or to the management committees on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Other complaints were related to the subsidies paid to ECD centres that are registered with the Department of Social Development.

(2) The Department of Education is in the process of finalizing funding norms for grade R to ensure that the funds reach the most needy learners. The draft norms and standards for funding grade R were released on the 14 October 2005 (Government Gazette 28134) for public comment. All comments received have been considered and the proposed norms and standards amended. I have been in consultation with the Minister of Finance to ensure that the necessary resources are made available.

My Department has in the meantime developed a detailed plan that clearly outlines the responsibility of both national and provincial departments of education with respect to implementation. As soon as the norms are approved

and funds made available, my department will begin funding grade R accordingly.