



The 2024 Mass Registration Drive

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the mass registration drive?

The government wants every young child in South Africa to have **access** to a **quality** ECD programme, and every programme to provide three things: Quality learning and development opportunities; a safe and nurturing environment; and good nutrition. Registration is the first step in making this possible.

Therefore, over the next year, government will be supporting many more ECD programmes to get registered as quickly as possible. The main difference in the new system is that it will be easier to access and more straightforward to move through.

2. What are the aims of the mass registration drive?

The mass registration drive has four main aims:

- To include every ECD programme in the regulatory system.
- To support ECD programmes to comply with legal requirements.
- Further down the line, to enable ECD programmes to apply for the ECD subsidy for children from low-income homes.
- To help government process registration applications faster.

3. Why do we need a mass registration drive?

Under the Children's Act, every ECD programme is supposed to be registered as partial care or an ECD programme, or both. However, over half of all programmes are not registered and so are not in the regulatory net. This particularly affects programmes in low-income communities.

4. How does the mass registration drive relate to Vangasali?

The Vangasali campaign used a new Registration Framework to support more ECD programmes to register. This was a big step forward, because it recognised that gradual compliance with some registration requirements is allowed for conditional registration. The mass registration drive is replacing this campaign, but builds on the foundations laid by this approach.

5. When is the mass registration drive coming to my area?

The mass registration drive is currently being piloted in some areas of Gauteng. It will be rolled out to other provinces in phases. In the meantime, programmes can keep checking back on the website below for updates and more information on how to get ready.

6. What is the new process under the mass registration drive?

Every ECD programme will move through three stages:

APPLY: The ECD programme submits an application through an online form or WhatsApp Bot and receives an initial *Bronze* certificate.

COMPLY: The ECD programme receives site visits to check that they comply with the norms and standards, and submits remaining documentation.

COMPLETE: The ECD programme receives a *Silver* or *Gold* certificate.

7. What is the APPLY stage?

APPLY is the first step in the registration journey. The goal of this stage is to get every ECD programme into the system. ECD programmes that complete the **APPLY** stage receive a *Bronze* certificate for one year, in which time the ECD programme must complete all remaining stages.

8. What is the COMPLY stage?

The **COMPLY** stage is the full application for *Silver/Gold*. During this stage, ECD programmes:

- ✓ submit other documents that are required;
- ✓ take steps to make sure their ECD programme complies with norms and standards;
- ✓ receive site inspections by the Education District and environmental health practitioner.

9. Will templates and forms be provided?

Yes, a submission pack with templates for all forms and policies for *Silver/Gold* registration will be made available to ECD programmes that have received their *Bronze* certificate.

10. What support will there be?

Some ECD programmes might struggle with an online application form. There will be a call centre to help those who have started an application but been unable to complete it.

In addition, local NGOs with formal relationships with ECD programmes will be invited to support the mass registration drive through:

- Communications and awareness to their networks
- For **APPLY**: Support with online application and document uploads
- For **COMPLY**: Support with document completion and site compliance

11. Where can I get more information?

Information, guidelines and tools will be added to DBE's web page as they become available. Go to: education.gov.za/Programmes/ECD/ECDMassRegistrationDrive.aspx