

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 678.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11/09/2024

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09/2024/7

678.. Ms N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

What are the details of the (a) current allocation of resources for early childhood development services, (b) functions for which the specified resources are used and (c) measures in place to ensure that they (i) are used effectively and (ii) reach the intended beneficiaries?

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 678.

Response

a. There are two pockets of funding for ECD, namely the ECD subsidy and the maintenance of ECD programme infrastructure. The ECD subsidy is funded through both the conditional grant and provincial equitable shares. For the 2024/25 financial year, R1.7 bn was allocated to ECD subsidies through the provincial equitable share, R1.4 bn was allocated to ECD subsidies through the conditional grant, and R156 million was allocated to the maintenance of ECD programme infrastructure.

b. The resources are used to cover the operational costs of ECD programmes (practitioner wages, nutritional support for children, learning and teaching support materials and other administration costs), through the ECD subsidy, and the maintenance of ECD programme infrastructure.

c. i) The DBE has developed guidelines for the administration of the ECD subsidy and the ECD maintenance grant. The guidelines on the ECD subsidy also introduces a method of allocating the ECD subsidy using a poverty-declared ward approach, to ensure the ECD subsidy promotes the DBE's social justice principle of equity and efficiency

ii) The ECD subsidy is allocated to eligible children in ECD programmes that are fully or conditionally registered with the DBE. A child is eligible for the subsidy if they pass the means test to qualify for the Child Support Grant.