

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 679

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

(1) What (a) plans are in place to integrate children who are not enrolled in early childhood development (ECD) programmes, (b) are the cost implications of doing so and (c) funding models have she proposed, especially in light of the cost constraints imposed by the National Treasury; (2) with reference to her proposal that provinces must fund the ECD programmes from their budgets, what (a) are details of the funding model she has proposed and (b) would be the source of the additional funding for the provinces?

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Response

a. The DBE has developed the 2030 Strategy for ECD programmes as a roadmap to expand access and improve quality. The Strategy articulates the expansion plans as being driven by population-based planning to ensure that the most vulnerable communities, with the lowest access will be prioritised for the expansion of access. Access will be expanded through public-private partnerships with social sector partners, given that social sector partners have the institutional knowledge of the establishment of new ECD programmes.

b. To enable the government to subsidise all eligible children at a subsidy rate which can cover the basic operational costs of an ECD programme, will require an estimated R20bn annually.

c. The DBE is currently implementing a results-based financing project to expand access and improve quality. This mechanism will enable the DBE to strategically co-fund the investment required in the ECD sector, along with donors, funders, philanthropists and the private sector.

2.

a. The key mechanism to enable increased access is through the ECD subsidy and through infrastructure and maintenance support. Both of these pockets of funding are enabled through the ECD Conditional Grant.

b. The DBE has submitted a budget bid to the National Treasury to request an increase in the ECD Conditional Grant to enable provinces to expand the value of the ECD subsidy, as well as expand access to the ECD subsidy. A summary of the budget bid is attached as **Annexure A**.