

## **Broad overview of the *South African Child Gauge 2015***

*The South African Child Gauge* is published annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, to monitor progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses attention on youth and the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

### **PART ONE: Children and Law Reform**

Part one outlines recent legislative developments affecting children and youth. This issue comments on litigation, law reform and policy developments including amendments to the Sexual Offences Act; a High Court judgment on *ukuthwala*; two policies to promote the sexual reproductive health rights of adolescents; proposed amendments to the Children's Act; amendments to the Maintenance Act; and the National Youth Policy 2015 – 2020. See pages 10 – 17.

### **PART TWO: Youth and the intergenerational transmission of poverty**

Part two presents nine essays – the first essay outlines how young people in South Africa experience multiple dimensions of deprivation and the need to intervene in this crucial youth stage to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of poverty. The following three essays outline some of the structural barriers to upward social mobility. They emphasise the need to address inequities in the schooling system and to improve young people's access to post-school education and employment. A further two essays highlight the central role of health and parenting in supporting the well-being of youth today and their future productivity, while essay seven explores patterns of youth mobility and migration and their impact on the lives and life chances of young people. The final two essays foreground young people's agency and the importance of facilitating a sense of belonging, active citizenship and young people's capacity to navigate adversity. See pages 18 – 97.

### **PART THREE: Children Count – The numbers**

Part three updates a set of key indicators on children's socio-economic rights and provides commentary on the extent to which these rights have been realised. In some instances, youth-specific data are also presented. The indicators are a special subset selected from the website [www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za). See pages 98 – 133.