

## About the contributors

**Merle Allsopp** is the director of the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) and is currently completing a Master of Technology degree in Child and Youth Care. Her area of interest is the human resources needed to realise a child rights culture. She represents the child and youth care sector on the Children's Bill Working Group and has been actively participating in the drafting of the law over the past 10 years.

**Eric Atmore** is the founding director of the Centre for Early Childhood Development and the national chairperson of the National Early Childhood Development Alliance. He has a Masters in Social Development with a thesis on early childhood development policy. He has been part of major ECD initiatives such as the National Education Policy Investigation (1992), the South African Pre-School Study (1994) and managed the nationwide audit of ECD provision in 2000.

**Lizette Berry** is a senior researcher in the Child Poverty Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a Masters in Social Policy and Management. Her experience includes co-ordinating support services for children with physical and intellectual disabilities and conducting research on social security for children. She is currently managing the *Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile* database of indicators on child rights and well-being as a tool for monitoring the situation of children in South Africa.

**Debbie Budlender** is a specialist researcher with the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) and is currently seconded to the Centre for Actuarial Research at UCT. She has a BA Honours in Economics, an MA in Industrial Sociology and a BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics. She serves on the Council of the University of Cape Town.

**Beverly Draper** is the Child Health Services Programme manager at the Children's Institute, UCT. She is a specialist in public health and has experience in the fields of both clinical and public health. Her current focus at the Institute is on education of health professionals in children's rights, and the effect of HIV on children's health and survival.

**Mira Dutschke** is a legal researcher in the Child Rights Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a LL.M in Human Rights and specialises in international and national human rights law. Her current focus is on children's rights to care, protection, participation and provisioning in the constitutional and international legal framework in the context of poverty and HIV/AIDS.

**Sonja Giese** is a development consultant with extensive experience in policy research, advocacy, programme implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Her career has focused primarily on addressing issues of concern to children affected by HIV/AIDS. She is currently completing an inter-disciplinary MPhil at UCT.

**Lucy Jamieson** is a senior advocacy co-ordinator in the Child Rights Programme of the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a BA (Hons) in Politics and is currently completing an MA in Democratic Governance. She has 15 years of experience in political campaign management, communications co-ordination and public consultation. She is responsible for co-ordinating the Children's Bill Working Group's political strategy and promoting the participation of civil society in the law reform process. Her current focus is on the participation of children in democratic decision-making.

**Johannes John-Langba** is the Child Poverty Programme manager at the Children's Institute, UCT. He has a PhD in Social Work and an MPH in Behavioural and Community Health, with extensive research and programme experience in public health-social work in a number of African countries. His research and programme interests include child poverty, children and migration, child protection, maternal and child health, mental health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, sexual violence and exploitation, and HIV/AIDS.

**Katharine Hall** is a senior researcher in the Child Poverty Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. She studied music and anthropology and has worked in applied social research for the past 10 years. Her research has spanned a range of sectors including health and health promotion, education, low-cost housing, housing finance and land tenure. Her work at the Institute focuses on the targeting of government services and poverty alleviation programmes for children.

**Macharia Kamau** has been the country representative to South Africa for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) since May 2005. Mr Kamau, a Kenyan national, began his career with the United Nations in 1985. Prior to his position with UNICEF South Africa, he was the resident co-ordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development. As the

resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme he was directly responsible for the agency's programmes in Rwanda. He had similar responsibilities in Botswana as resident co-ordinator and resident representative before moving to Rwanda.

**Jackie Loffell** is a social worker who works part-time as an independent consultant and part-time as advocacy co-ordinator for the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, seeking to influence legislation and social policy relevant to children and families. She has a PhD in Social Work from the University of the Witwatersrand and 36 years' experience in direct service provision as well as supervision, management, programme development and evaluation, and research. She is involved in the activities of a range of networking organisations concerned with child rights and family service issues, and with advocacy and capacity-building in the social welfare sector. She served on the South African Law Reform Commission Project Committee that produced the first draft of the Children's Bill and has been actively involved in the making of the Children's Act over the past 10 years.

**Double-Hugh Marera** is a demographer in the Child Poverty Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. He has a BSc (Hons) in Statistics and is currently finishing an MPhil in Demography with the Centre for Actuarial Research at UCT. His research interests are in the mathematical modelling of HIV/AIDS and poverty and measuring the impact of antiretrovirals in reducing infant and child mortality. He is currently working with national survey and administrative data to develop indicators on the situation of children in South Africa.

**Helen Meintjes** is a senior researcher in the HIV/AIDS Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a Masters in Social Anthropology and has worked primarily in policy research. Currently her main focus is on exploring issues relating to the provision of care and support to children in the context of the AIDS pandemic.

**Jo Monson** works as a materials development specialist at the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a Masters in Drama and has worked extensively in the development sector across a range of communication fields including drama, radio, video and publishing. Her current focus is on making research findings accessible to a variety of different stakeholders.

**Shirley Pendlebury** is the director of the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a PhD in Education and is well known nationally and internationally for her wide-ranging academic work in education. Social justice and human rights in education have been a recurring theme in her research, publications, conference presentations, teaching and postgraduate supervision. Shirley has a strong commitment to inter-disciplinary, socially responsible research.

**Paula Proudlock** is the Child Rights Programme manager at the Children's Institute, UCT and has been managing the Children's Bill Working Group since 2002. She has a BA (LLB) degree and is in the final stages of obtaining a Master in Public Law. She has 10 years' experience in research and advocacy on children's socio-economic rights and law reform. Her particular interest is in promoting the use of the Bill of Rights and the participation of civil society in policy and law-making processes affecting children. She is a founding member of the Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security (ACCESS) and currently serves on its board.

**Norma Rudolph** is a senior researcher leading the Caring Schools Project in the HIV/AIDS Programme at the Children's Institute, UCT. She has a Masters in Education. Her research interests are systemic action research, communication for social change with special focus on child rights and appreciative inquiry, teacher development, early childhood development and evaluation.

**Charmaine Smith** is the communication and knowledge manager at the Children's Institute, UCT. She holds a National Diploma in Journalism, and a post-graduate diploma in writing and production for the media. After working in radio for several years, she moved to the development sector, where she has a special interest in communication for social change. She served as chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Southern African Media and Gender Institute until the end of 2007.

**Samantha Waterhouse** is the advocacy manager at Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN). She has worked towards the realisation of victims' rights with a particular focus on gender based violence. She currently focuses on policy and law reform towards realising the rights of children and is an active member of the Children's Bill Working Group.