



DA

ONE NATION. ONE FUTURE

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

The DA's plan to give better
opportunities to all South Africans

October 2008

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Executive Summary

While some of South Africa's people live in prosperity and even opulence, for many millions of others, their daily lives are a constant struggle simply to stay alive.

The ability of South Africans born into poverty or disadvantage to use their talents and seize opportunities is compromised from the beginning of their lives, and continues to be undermined at every stage of their lives thereafter. While a growing economy will help many of these people, there will always remain some who, for many different reasons, need the state's assistance.

The DA will make a range of interventions available to individuals at every phase of their lives to allow them to overcome the specific problems that affect them and take advantage of an ***Open Opportunity Society for All***. These policies will be aimed at facilitating, not directing, their activities, and at expanding choices rather than determining them.

Children

Children born into poverty must be able to access the food, health care and education they need to learn and grow.

The child support grant has given eight million children a far better start in life than they would otherwise have had, but children do not always benefit from it as they should. The DA will therefore expand the grant to cover children up to the age of 16. At the same time, we will combine the current straight cash transfer with requirements for a child's guardian to take specific steps to further the child's development. These steps would include immunisation, providing adequate food and health checkups and ensuring school attendance.

In addition, to give children a better start in life, the DA will target areas plagued by foetal alcohol syndrome, improve health interventions for babies and expand the school nutrition programme. The DA will develop a proactive and decisive response to our growing orphaned children crisis aimed at, as far as possible, allowing children to maintain relationships with their remaining family and their communities. These measures will include Orphaned Child Support Committees across the country to provide orphaned children with the practical help that will allow them to manage their circumstances successfully.

Finally, we will ensure that the requirements of special-needs learners are adequately met with a range of state-provided schooling options.

Teenagers and Young Adults

Teenagers and young adults must have support mechanisms available to them to help them to develop their talents and maximise their opportunities.

The DA will put in place a number of different programmes which will allow young South Africans, who would otherwise have few options open to them, to broaden their knowledge and learn marketable skills.

We will allow any South African citizen aged between 16 and 24 years of age to register either to perform voluntary community service in the public service (where they would work in schools, hospitals or local councils, for example), or in the SAPS or

SANDF, where they will learn non-combative skills while helping to assure South Africa's security and stability.

For both of these alternatives, the internship would last a year and a small stipend would be paid. Those who complete these training periods would either be absorbed into the permanent structures of the public service or would qualify for an opportunity voucher to further their careers.

The breakdown of social institutions in many parts of the country has left many young South Africans at risk of falling into a life of crime. The DA Youth Development Programme will empower unemployed youth who have been expelled or had brushes with the law to learn to use their talents to improve their lives.

The programme will consist of both a skills development and an on-the-job-learning component. Upon completion of the skills development component, trainees will be deployed to positions in both the public and private sector for a six month period of on-the-job-learning.

Finally, the DA will allow any young person who successfully completes matric, voluntary community service, volunteering at the SAPS or the SANDF or the Youth Development Programme to claim, on graduation, an opportunity voucher. This voucher will allow him or her to subsidise study costs or start a business.

To accompany these programmes, the DA will crack down hard on drug and alcohol abuse – a problem that leads many young South Africans to destroy their lives. Among other things, we will reinstate the narcotics bureau, triple the funding allocation to the central drug authority and tighten up on bail for drug offences.

Adults

Social grants exclude millions of South Africans who are of working age but who have no prospect of ever finding a gainful source of income. Adults who have been left behind need to be given the basic means to survive and make the most of their circumstances.

The DA will therefore make an Income Support and Unemployment Grant of R110 per month available to all South Africans earning below R46 000 per annum who do not receive another state grant (cross-referenced against SASSA records).

Potential recipients must have a valid ID document, and they must have a bank account to minimise administration costs.

Finally, we propose various steps to ensure both the well-being of beneficiaries of disability grants and the security of the system.

The Elderly

The elderly must have access to a support system which allows them to live in dignity once they are no longer able to support themselves.

The state old age pension (SOAP) is a life-line for many elderly South Africans. However, the means test, which is used to ensure that only the poorest receive it, is impractical and expensive and excludes many needy people who do not meet its requirements. The DA will therefore abolish the means test for the SOAP and provide a universal old age pension, available to all South Africans.

This policy will go hand-in-hand with our proposals for reform of the pension system for employed South Africans.

Millions of South Africans who are not eligible for a state pension, and have also not saved adequately for their retirement, face a perilous post-retirement future.

The government has proposed a National Social Security Fund (NSSF) entailing mandatory participation by all formal sector employees, with a wage subsidy to counteract the effect on low-income earners.

The DA fully supports the principle that individuals who are able to should be required to contribute to a retirement scheme. But South Africans must be able to benefit fully from the money they invest. A centralised fund will inevitably eliminate beneficiaries' ability to choose and leave them extremely vulnerable if the scheme does not perform well.

The DA will automatically include all formal sector employees in a state savings vehicle, but will also give anyone who would like to opt out and join a private sector fund the opportunity to do so.

In addition, to cater specifically for people earning less than R60 000 a year, the DA will operate a low-cost state savings scheme to operate as a long-term savings vehicle for anyone who wants to be a member.

Many elderly South Africans do not have the specialised care that their frailty or poor health requires. Families and community structures could play a much more effective role in caring for their aged.

The DA will provide specialised funding for care facilities for elderly citizens who need this, but we will place the emphasis on subsidised meal schemes, community health care services and other schemes that allow the elderly to remain in their communities.

Current measures to protect the aged against abuse are inadequate. Among the measures we propose to tackle this situation are an office of the Human Rights Commissioner for the Aged within the existing Human Rights Commission, charged specifically with investigating complaints of abuse and conducting regular investigations of aged care facilities.

Human Resources for Social Development

It is not possible to give any of these different groups of poor South Africans access to the opportunities the DA proposes unless we have enough people to administer grants and provide the services and support that are required. But astonishing vacancy levels for social workers and other staff in South Africa make this impossible.

The DA will establish two dedicated training colleges for social workers in each province within ten years. We will also facilitate more social work bursaries and fully exploit the opportunities available to us to recruit social workers and other social development staff from the African continent and the rest of the world.

State funding to non-government organisations (NGOs) must also be responsibly and systematically increased to address the salary gap between social work practitioners in the public sector relative to those working in NPOs, and an independent enquiry must be conducted into the National Lottery to establish how its processes could be made more efficient.

In order to ensure that workers' time is being used as efficiently as possible, the DA will rationalise and computerise grant payment systems, wherever possible. We will also introduce one-stop shops where South African citizens can go to have a wide range of processes completed.

Introduction

While some of South Africa's people are fortunate – because of birth or effort or a combination of both – to live in conditions of comfort, or even of wealth and opulence, many millions more live in conditions of grinding poverty. Their daily lives consist of a constant struggle simply to stay alive.

The ability of South Africans born into poverty to use their talents and seize opportunities is compromised from the beginning of their lives, and continues to be undermined at every stage of their lives thereafter.

The lack of nutritious food and clean water, housing and health care, has debilitating consequences for all poor South Africans, but particularly the young, who cannot grow physically or intellectually with inadequate food and poor stimulation.

Sub-optimal educational opportunities entrench the poverty cycle, and once these already deprived children reach young adulthood, they are very likely to have their slim chance of success further eroded by surroundings saturated by drugs, crime, violence and the persecution of the vulnerable.

Those who survive to adulthood find themselves in a world which excludes them from almost any possibility of gainful and productive employment. Unlike developed economies, unemployment in South Africa is measured in years rather than months and, as a result, unemployed South Africans are often mired in poverty for their entire lives.

In an environment which encourages dysfunctional families and far-flung job searches, the elderly take much of the strain of caring for families, but are often constrained in their capacity to do this by damage of a hopelessly burdened life and by the lack of support available to them.

These adults very often pass on a view of the world to their children in which poverty and powerlessness are seen as inevitable, and so the cycle becomes entrenched.

Even within the group of South Africa's poor, there are some that are doubly and triply disadvantaged: women, the rural poor, the disabled, those suffering from chronic diseases, and foreigners who endure the brunt of xenophobia.

Lying behind this economic inequality are the stark racial divides created by centuries of systematic racial, ethnic and sexual discrimination. The effects of these policies and practices remain with us today, and will remain with us until we break the cycle.

The job-creating growth that flows from a modern, enterprise-driven economy and the implementation of growth and employment-centric policies will reduce poverty in the long-term as more and more South Africans are able to work. The realisation of conditions that would lead to an **Open Opportunity Society for All** are spelt out in other policies of the Democratic Alliance, in particular, those on education and job-creation.

However, there will always be many who continue to need help – there will always be some children who remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, some young adults whose ability to seize opportunities is restricted, and some working age adults incapable for any number reasons of sustaining themselves; furthermore, specific interventions will always be required to ensure that those who are too old to work are able to survive.

The care and financial support of these South Africans remains the bottom-line responsibility of the state. But a government driven by the idea of an **Open Opportunity Society for All** must do more than simply provide hand-outs; it must give every poor citizen the opportunities he or she needs to take charge of his own life, and to find and use her own unique talents to escape from poverty.

The DA will make a range of interventions available to individuals at every phase of their lives aimed at overcoming the specific problems that affect them. The DA will ensure that:

1. **Children** born into poverty are able to obtain the food, health care and education they need to learn and grow.
2. **Teenagers and young adults** have support mechanisms available to them to help them to develop their talents and maximise their opportunities.
3. **Adults** who have been left behind are able to access an amount of money which will allow them to at least survive and make the most of their circumstances.
4. **The elderly** have access to a support system which allows them to survive once they are no longer able to support themselves.

These policies will be aimed at facilitating, not directing, their activities, and at expanding choices rather than determining them. They will allow citizens to control their own destinies, and they will encourage independence, not client-hood, patronage and dependence.

PART ONE: Improving the Life Chances of Children

1.1 Building Healthy Families

Every child should be able to grow up in a loving home with the care and individual attention of at least one responsible adult. While this cannot always be possible, the state has a responsibility to adopt certain measures to try to promote such an environment.

The DA will, therefore:

- *Include a programme on responsible parenting in the Department of Education's life skills programme.* This will help to develop a culture of responsibility towards children and an understanding of their needs;
- *Target areas plagued by high levels of foetal alcohol syndrome.* The DA will use multi-pronged prevention programmes, which would incorporate initiatives to close down illegal shebeens, active diversion programmes for young adults, the establishment of rehabilitation centres, and a focus on establishing sporting and recreation facilities;
- *Give teachers specific training in identifying children with family problems.* Teachers must be properly informed about where to refer these learners to in order to ensure that their problems can be managed as early as possible; and
- *Conduct a full-throttle campaign against substance abuse (see below).* It is critical that we stop the destruction of families that often results from any member becoming a victim of substance abuse.

1.2 Encouraging Healthy Children

Building a nation of confident, capable, and self-reliant adults must start with ensuring that children are born healthy and remain healthy. Yet many children are born at an immediate disadvantage because of poor health interventions in the first days of their lives, and many remain nutritionally deprived throughout their childhoods.

The DA will, therefore:

- *Ensure proper care for newborns.* All health districts must establish procedures for monitoring and evaluating coverage and quality of care provided to newborns, and this data must be publicly available. All health facilities will be encouraged to undertake regular mother and baby health audits and address modifiable factors. All midwives, for example, must have holistic training in nutrition for babies and infants, healthy living during pregnancy and after childbirth, and basic health interventions;
- *Bring back school visits by nurses and social workers.* This will ensure that learners with health problems that have not been identified already can have these problems addressed;
- *Expand the school nutrition scheme.* The scheme must cover learners all the way through until matric. There is no good reason why older but equally deprived learners should lose out on the nutrition they need; and
- *Demand performance from school nutrition programme suppliers.* Many school nutrition programmes have been brought to ruin by processes that award tenders on the basis of special interests and connections rather than performance. Many learners have been left starving as a result. The DA will put an immediate stop to this; contracts for providing school meals will be awarded purely on the basis of ability to do the job, and rigorous oversight will be maintained.

1.3 Transforming the Child Care Grant

a. Weaknesses in the child safety net

South Africa has a social welfare system in place that provides benefits to recipients that are unequalled for a country of our income level, and we are the only welfare state in Africa. In particular, child care grants of R220 (as of October 2008) are provided unconditionally to the caregivers of all children under the age of 15 living in poverty, and provide nourishment and shelter to many of those who would not be able to provide this for themselves.

These grants have been one of the most profoundly beneficial policies of the ANC government, and give eight million children a far better start in life than they would otherwise have had.

However, the child care grant is currently available only to children under 15. This leaves many poverty-stricken older children, at a critical stage in their lives when they should be devoting themselves to school work and making plans for their futures, vulnerable to being left without any means of support.

Furthermore, despite being recipients of child support grants, the reality is that many South African children do not receive regular meals, wander the streets instead of attending school, and do not receive proper healthcare.

Despite progress made since 1994 in tackling poverty, not all children who should be benefiting from South Africa's elaborate social welfare framework are actually benefiting from it as they should, and guardians do not always spend these grants with the best interests of their children in mind.

Research suggests that orphaned children are particularly vulnerable: children affected by HIV/Aids are reportedly often taken in on sufferance by neighbours and relatives, but are exploited and abused rather than cared for.

b. The DA's solution

(i) Ensuring all children are covered

As it is prohibited by law for children under the age of 16 to work, and as the statistics on child poverty are well known, the exclusion of children over 16 is not justifiable.

<p>It is imperative that the child support grant be maintained and extended to cover all children in need. The DA will therefore extend the grant to reach all children under the age of 16 – the age at which children are able to earn their own living, and at which a range of other support mechanisms proposed by the DA will become available to children in need.</p>

(ii) Safeguarding children's futures

Because children are less able than adults to stand up for their own rights, and because the child care grant is so critical in giving children the means to shake off their circumstances, the state has a particular obligation to ensure that this grant is used for the purpose – the nurturing and development of children – for which it was intended.

There is no country that has not had to grapple with ensuring that welfare benefits are spent appropriately. As a result, following on from a successful Mexican policy, it is becoming increasingly common for benefits aimed at children to be tied to their guardians meeting certain obligations. The Progresa policy in Mexico reaches 20% of the country's poorest citizens, and requires guardians to ensure that children attend school and receive regular health check-ups.

Mexico's poorest children are benefiting as a result. After one year of benefits, children showed:

- Significantly lower child morbidity rates and better growth;
- Improvements in motor skills and socio-emotional development; and
- Increased school enrolment.

Numerous other less tangible benefits have also been demonstrated, including a change in the accountability relationships between national government, the providers of services and poor households, and an increasing social cohesion amongst participants.

The DA will combine the current straight cash transfer with incentives for a child's guardian to take specific steps to further the child's development, including immunisation, providing adequate food, and regular health checkups and school attendance.

To receive a child support grant, a DA government would require the legal guardian of a child to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has brought the child in to a clinic for regular health check-ups. These check-ups would allow the child's progress to be monitored, and for nurses to ensure that the child is receiving adequate nutrition and is in good health;
- Has ensured that the child has received all his or her vaccinations; and
- Has ensured that the child attends school at least 85% of the time.

In addition, the DA will give out grants only to guardians who are over the age of 18. Where the guardian is younger than this, the grant will be paid out to the child via a registered, designated NGO or social worker.

The system would work as follows:

- In order to receive a grant, the guardian would be required to present a form to the officials who are responsible for making payments (there is no reason why this should not be the same officials who perform this function now), on the appropriate payment date, which has been stamped by both the school and the clinic.
- Officials will be responsible for ensuring that the information on the form is correct before making a payment. Where no form is presented, or where information is incorrect, the matter will be referred on for further investigation.
- To ensure that the potential for corruption is minimised, the process must be entirely transparent and school and clinic attendance records must be submitted to a central database. Stiff penalties must apply to anyone found to be abusing the system.
- As this system will impose a certain amount of administrative complexity on the grant payment system, and in order to ensure that its introduction does not result in an escalation of costs, the DA will make grants payable every two months rather than every month (so that the number of times that the administrative process of awarding a grant must be repeated is reduced).

- Those children whose guardians do not meet the requirements of this grant are in danger of being penalised even further if they are denied their grant. Therefore they must continue to receive the benefit of it, but it must be given to them through an alternative source - a social worker, an accredited non-government organisation or another individual or body who has been mandated to monitor the welfare of the child.

By ensuring that grants are spent directly on health, education and nutrition, we will not only be improving their lives in the immediate term, but also breaking the poverty chain which ensures that the children of poor parents will remain poor themselves.

1.4 Taking Care of Orphaned Children

Orphaned children are a particular category of children who need particular attention. More and more children whose parents have died, particularly as a result of HIV/Aids, are desperately trying to survive on their own. Orphaned children struggle to feed and clothe themselves and they are often stigmatised and rejected by their communities. Extended families are increasingly unable to cope.

The DA will develop a proactive and decisive response to this crisis, with the goal of ensuring that orphaned children have a home and a family, even if it is not their biological family, and access to the basic necessities of life, including sufficient food, basic education and health care.

a. Orphaned Child Support Groups

Orphanages have a role to play for children who have been left completely without family support structures. However, they are not an ideal answer to South Africa's orphaned children crisis. Not only do they make it difficult for children to maintain relationships with their remaining family and their communities, but they are also too expensive on the scale required. The DA would introduce other interventions aimed at keeping as many children as possible within their families.

The DA will create Orphaned Child Support Committees across the country to provide orphaned children with the practical help that will allow them to adapt to their circumstances successfully. Children, extended family members and anyone else with an interest in any orphaned child or children will be able to benefit from a range of free services:

- Help with obtaining birth certificates, identity documents and welfare benefits;
- Help with solving other problems, such as arranging exemptions from school fees and negotiating with banks when evictions are threatened
- Linking up children with guardians and tracking down extended family members;
- Trauma counselling and support groups; and
- Training in life skills, money management, practical skills and other skills that children would normally learn from their parents.

b. Legal measures

Various legislative changes will help to ease the plight of orphaned children. A legal mechanism must be developed to allow orphaned children under the age of 18 to access the Child Support Grant. In addition, creative foster care options need to be investigated. For example, the criteria for acceptance as a foster parent must be broadened to make it easier for more care-givers to become adoptive parents.

c. Housing

Following the death of their parents, many orphaned children have their problems compounded by the threat of eviction from their homes when bonds can no longer be paid.

A Code of Practice on orphaned children, to be negotiated between the state and banks and adopted by all lending institutions, will help to minimise the trauma experienced by children who have been orphaned. While banks cannot be expected to take the strain of housing loans that cannot be paid for, it is critical that the terms under which such situations must be addressed be clearly laid out.

The DA will also interact with the banking sector to develop policies on specific issues: for example, the transfer of bonds to other family members on the death of the bondholder, where possible, or a period of delay before the bank is able to take possession of the house, if no other solution is possible.

Finally, when state-subsidised low-cost houses are transferred to their new owners, the names of the registered owners' dependents must be registered at the same time so that dependents do not lose their rights should their guardians die.

1.5 Children with Special Needs

Individuals with physical and mental disabilities are engaged in an ongoing struggle to compensate for a world which is not well adapted to their needs. Specialised training in the foundation years can often make this job many times easier, and even allow disabled children to live fully functional lives. However, facilities to help disabled children in South Africa are extremely limited – particularly for poor children.

The DA acknowledges the importance of addressing the educational requirements of learners with special or remedial educational needs, and we will seek to meet them efficiently and effectively.

Parental choice is the key to a pragmatic and flexible policy. While some parents favour special schools, others prefer their children to be integrated into mainstream schools. The decision must be left in the hands of parents, and they must have reasonable access to both alternatives.

The DA will, however, place a strong emphasis on ensuring that the requirements of special-needs learners are adequately met. We will:

- *Ensure that state-provided schooling options are available for learners with a range of special needs.* Where these needs are not met, the DA will allow for a subsidy system to ensure that their needs can be met through the private or non-government organisation sector.
- *Make a concerted effort to make interventions in the foundation and intermediate phases in respect of special needs issues and remedial issues.* If a learner can be guided along the correct path during these phases, it will set a good precedent for his or her future scholastic and career prospects.
- *Strongly encourage, and facilitate the establishment of, more remedial classes within schools.* Learners who are weak academically for whatever reason, but who do not need specialised schooling, or whose parents do not want them to receive specialised schooling, must have an alternative to improve their performance within main-stream schools.

- *Ensure that social workers are available to these schools.* Parents, learners, staff members and the community surrounding these facilities need to have help to manage their problems and respond to the stigma that faces many of these children.

PART TWO: Opportunities for Young South Africans

2.1 South Africa's Youth Dislocation Crisis

Many young people in South Africa face dire employment prospects and bleak futures. In 2007, according to the broad definition of unemployment, 32% of South Africans aged between 16 – 24 years old were unable to find a job. It is estimated that only 1 out of every 10 matriculants finds a job in the formal sector. For the many who drop out of school before reaching matric, the prospects are even more grim.

These young adults have little chance of ever being able to make the most of their lives; our drugs crisis, the statistics on young adults in prison, and the sense of desolation in many of South Africa's poor communities points to the consequences of this situation for those who should be taking South Africa forward into a new era.

2.2 The DA's solutions

In the long term, sustained economic growth will create the jobs needed to absorb the unemployed, and a focus on job-creation will ensure that young South Africans are able to successfully apply for these jobs. But the hundreds of thousands of unemployed young people constitute a significant social problem now.

The DA would intervene to provide young South Africans with the opportunity to become economically active, develop skills and play a constructive role in the development of our society.

In an *Open Opportunity Society for All*, the state promotes growth by extending opportunities to all its citizens – so that more and more people have the capacity to find jobs, open businesses and use their potential.

The DA will create a range of different programmes which will allow young South Africans, who would otherwise have few options open to them, to broaden their knowledge and learn marketable skills.

We aim to enrol 500 000 young South Africans in these programmes at an estimated cost of R7 billion per annum (assuming five day weeks).

a. Voluntary Community Service

The DA will implement a system whereby any South African citizen aged between 16 and 24 years of age would be able to register to perform voluntary community service. The state will provide opportunities for 300 000 young people per annum to perform this service for a 12 month period. Any South African without a criminal record would be entitled to apply, and people would be excluded only if there were more applicants than there were opportunities.

Unlike the government's Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), this is aimed specifically at young South Africans, and their community service will be aimed at opening up doors rather than being an end in itself – as is the case with the EPWP.

Young people performing voluntary community service will be employed to extend the reach and improve the efficiency of the public service in departments such as Health,

Home Affairs, Social Development and Housing, and help fill gaps at numerous municipalities. They will be able, for example, to:

- Carry out maintenance tasks;
- Assist with administration;
- Help to extend and improve the physical infrastructure by building and maintaining roads, schools, clinics, and low-cost housing; and
- Provide assistance to health workers, social workers, community development workers and others.

In order to broaden the scope and range of opportunities, and to make as much use as possible of the range of opportunities available in South Africa, the DA would also look for work opportunities in the private sector. This would enable participants to gain experience in a wide range of activities including agriculture, construction, basic business administration, care-giving, security and catering.

As far as possible, such service will be carried out close to where the person lives and will be matched to whatever skills that person possesses.

Young South Africans engaged in this service would be paid R50 per day – the lower-end of rates earned by those who are engaged in the EPWP. Those who cannot be employed close to their place of residence will receive a subsistence and transport allowance.

After successful completion of the community service, participants would either be absorbed into the permanent structures of the public or private sector, or would qualify for an opportunity voucher (discussed below).

b. SAPS and SANDF volunteers: Helping to guarantee our Security

To further expand the opportunities available to young South Africans, the DA will allow young people with appropriate backgrounds and skills to volunteer to serve in the SAPS or SANDF for a period of one year, where they will learn non-combative skills. During this period, they will be paid at the same rates as those engaged in the EPWP (R50 per day), but will be given food and accommodation in police or defence force establishments. This will enable them to save a significant amount of money throughout the year.

After successful completion of the one year period, graduates who have proved themselves would be offered the opportunity to be absorbed into the permanent structures of the SAPS/SANDF. After completing basic training, these young people would be able to enhance visible policing as police reservists and law enforcement officers, or as soldiers in the SANDF. Those who do not want to take up this option would qualify for an opportunity voucher (discussed below).

c. A Youth Development Programme: Empowering Youth at Risk

The breakdown of social institutions in many parts of the country and the widespread incidence of gang-related crime points to a social crisis. The DA will put in place a range of interventions to give youth at risk an opportunity to find direction and make the most of their lives.

The DA Youth Development Programme will aim to empower unemployed youth “at risk” to use their talents to better their lives. The premise behind this programme is to train and educate youth at risk of falling into crime. In addition to general life-skills and

financial literacy, participants will be equipped with on-the-job learning. They will thus leave the programme with a credible employer reference and essential work experience.

The state development programme that the DA envisages is based on the highly successful Chrysalis programme pioneered by the DA provincial government in the Western Cape and initiated in 2000. The programme was conceived amid concern that criminal activities were largely undertaken by young men aged between 16 and 20 years and aims at equipping trainees with life skills and work skills and assist them in finding a job.

In terms of this scheme, “youth at risk” are considered to be young people at risk of being expelled from school (or who have been expelled), who have substance abuse problems or who have been involved in brushes with the law (but will not have had a criminal conviction). Such youths will have reached a point where the difficulties they face make it impossible for them to make the most of their potential.

Garnering the expertise and experience that is already available at the Chrysalis Academy, and expanding the successful provincial Chrysalis project, the Youth Development Programme will become a nation-wide initiative.

As per criteria for participation, the Youth Development Programme is for unemployed South African citizens aged between 16 and 25 years who have attained at least a Grade 9 (Standard 7) academic qualification and do not have a criminal record (because the programme is primarily intended to be preventative).

The programme will consist of both a skills development and an on-the-job-learning component.

Based on the Chrysalis programme, the four month skills development component will consist of various life-skills courses, including financial literacy, principles of starting a business, goal setting, problem solving, team work and communication. In addition, trainees will be able to select from a wide-range of practical courses, such as metal and woodwork, brick-laying and other aspects of construction, car maintenance, electrical circuitry, security, agriculture, basic business administration, catering, basic computer skills, leatherwork or tailoring.

Participation in the programme will be free. Throughout the skills development component, trainees would be housed and fed at the nation-wide Youth Development Programme Academies.

Upon completion of the skills development component, trainees will be deployed to positions in both the public and private sector for a six month period for on-the-job learning. During this period, trainees will be paid R50 per day.

Finally, trainees will be monitored for at least five years after completion of the programme.

d. Opportunity Vouchers

The DA will ensure that any young person who successfully completes matric, voluntary community service, volunteering at the SAPS or the SANDF or the Youth Development Programme is entitled, on graduation, to an opportunity voucher to allow him or her to obtain further education or start a business.

This voucher will entitle the graduate to:

- A partial subsidy of university or FET college fees. The amount of the subsidy will be determined by the area of study chosen by the graduate, which in turn will be based on the skills shortages faced by the country at that particular time. In current circumstances, for example, those wanting to qualify for subsidies in the construction industry would qualify for a higher subsidy than (say) a music student;
- Seed capital to establish small or micro enterprises, subject to a well-formed business plan; or
- A state guarantee to cover loans extended by commercial banks to graduates to establish small or micro enterprises, subject to a well-formed business plan and other requirements.

The value of the voucher will be up to a maximum of R6000 – but will vary by area of study chosen. The voucher will be paid over three years, i.e. R2000 per year. Qualification for the voucher in the second and third year will be conditional, for example, on the recipient passing his or her exams.

Assuming a 100% take-up of vouchers by all matriculants and participants of youth development programmes, the vouchers will cost the state R1.7 billion per annum excluding administration costs. The DA has already budgeted R950 million per annum for opportunity vouchers in the 2008/09 Alternative Budget. As such, the vouchers imply, at maximum uptake (which is unlikely), an additional cost of R753 million.

e. Fighting drug and alcohol abuse

Drug addiction remains a problem of catastrophic proportions in South Africa. Nearly a quarter of a million South Africans are problem drug users. Teenagers and young adults are the primary victims of drug peddlers. Reducing levels of drug and alcohol abuse will save many young South Africans from destroying their lives through addiction and make the streets safer for all South Africans.

Some work has been done by the government on the subject - for example, the tabling of the Prevention of Substance Abuse Bill and the creation of the Central Drug Authority (CDA). However, these initiatives have so far failed to prove their worth and the amount of political attention devoted to this problem suggests a massive under-estimation of its consequences. Little has been done to contain the misuse of alcohol, and existing regulations on alcohol sales and alcohol are seldom applied effectively.

In the DA's vision of an ***Open Opportunity Society for All***, drug dealers are not able to roam freely on the streets and families and communities are free from crimes perpetrated by substance abusers. The law is applied ruthlessly to drug dealers, and addicts are provided with adequate help and support in overcoming their addictions.

The DA will:

- *Reinstate the Narcotics Bureau.* A dedicated unit within the SAPS to fight drugs would be in a position to co-ordinate an assault on drugs far more effectively than police officers working individually;
- *Triple the funding allocation to the Central Drug Authority.* The CDA, which advises the government on drug abuse, must not be just a symbolic gesture, it must be able to make a real difference;
- *Create a public-private partnership to fight drugs and crime.* In keeping with the DA's vision of an ***Open Opportunity Society for All***, the DA would establish a

public-private partnership between government and civil society to lead the fight against drugs and crime. The activities of credible NGOs that specialise in targeting drug addiction and rehabilitation must receive more support;

- *Stronger border security.* By improving our border security, we will make the shipping of drugs in and out of the country far more difficult;
- *Tighten up on bail for drug offences.* Anyone who has already been convicted on a charge of drug dealing and who is charged with this crime again will not be eligible for bail;
- *Ensure better trans-national support.* South Africa's relationships with neighbouring countries can be improved in terms of resource pooling (expertise, training, equipment, etc.) as well as joint exercise collaboration (border patrols, joint criminal investigations, etc.);
- *Devote sufficient funds to rehabilitation.* The long waiting list for existing rehabilitation centres emphasises the enormous need for more of these facilities. State funds must be more readily available for properly accredited rehabilitation centres;
- *Require prisoners to be drug free.* No prisoner should be eligible for early release or parole of any kind unless they are drug-free. This would ensure that drug rehabilitation in prisons is dramatically expanded and would provide an enormous incentive on the part of imprisoned addicts to tackle their addiction;
- *Insist on random drug testing in schools.* The DA would require that at least one teacher in a school be trained in conducting drug tests, and that random tests are conducted regularly;
- *Prioritise funding for combating alcohol abuse.* The establishment and funding of programmes to address the socio-economic impact of alcohol abuse, preferably with co-operative arrangements with churches and other community organisations, must go hand-in-hand with more vigorous efforts to reduce alcohol abuse;
- *Clamp down on illegal liquor sales.* The DA would be uncompromising about enforcing the law on alcohol sales. Illegal sales points would be shut down, opening hours would be strictly enforced, and police and traffic officers would conduct regular blitzes around problematic areas to test patrons; and
- *Focus on alcohol problem areas.* In areas where alcohol abuse is a particular problem, the DA would enforce "dry zones" where no alcohol at all may be sold. While this would not stop residents from being able to obtain alcohol elsewhere, it would make obtaining alcohol more difficult and would leave fewer ambiguities about the sale of alcohol to complicate the task of police officers.

PART THREE: Making Life Better for the Adult Poor

3.1 Widening the Social Security Net with an Income Support and Unemployment Grant

a. The social welfare gap

South Africa's social security net provides disability grants for people who are too sick or incapacitated to work, old-age pensions for the elderly and child support grants for children.

However, despite the fact that many millions of South Africans who are unable to support themselves receive these grants, poverty and inequality are both pervasive and endemic in South Africa.

Social grants miss out on the millions of South Africans who are of working age but who have no prospect of ever finding a gainful source of income. In South Africa's formal economy there is little space for the millions of illiterate and innumerate South Africans who eek out an existence.

Examples of South Africans deliberately not taking medication for chronic illnesses, in order to be able to continue receiving a disability grant, serve to highlight the desperation of working age adults to access South Africa's social welfare system.

South Africa's social security system can no longer continue to operate on the incorrect premise that all able-bodied adults are able to support themselves through work.

b. The DA's solution

An Income Support and Unemployment Grant of R110 per month be made available to all South Africans earning below R46 000 per annum or who are unemployed (cross-referenced against SASSA records).

(i) Administering the Income Support and Unemployment Grant

All applicants for the grant must have a functioning bank or post office savings account, and payments will be made directly and automatically into these accounts. The Post Bank, with branches in all post offices, would be an ideal candidate to manage these transactions. In particular, the low-cost national Mzansi bank account would safe-guard the grant from being eroded by bank charges.

Potential recipients would obtain a grant by registering to receive the grant and producing a valid ID document. The registration would be recorded by the South African Revenue Service (SARS). The application would consist of a single form, rather than the current multiple form applications required for state grants.

Anyone earning between R46 000 and R60 000 per year is required to pay SITE (Standard Income Tax on Employees) while anyone earning over R60 000 pays PAYE (Pay As You Earn) and is required to register as a tax payer. As such, SARS would be able to identify those applicants who are earning in excess of the R46 000 income threshold with minimal effort. This would eliminate the need for a practically difficult means test.

In addition, there will be no perverse incentive in place whereby the unemployed are discouraged from finding employment for fear of losing the benefit. The grant will only cease once the recipient's annual income exceeds the R46 000 annual income threshold.

Earnings in the informal sector ranging from a few rands to many millions of rands are often not recorded by SARS, which would leave an unknowable number of people able to claim grants who should not be entitled to them. The solution to this is to continue tightening up on the formalisation and registration of all enterprises in the private sector to ensure that all incomes are formally recorded.

3.2 Making Life Easier for Adults with Disabilities

a. The marginalisation of the disabled

An estimated 5-10% of the adult, working age population suffers from some physical or mental impairment. These disabilities add a further strain to their responsibility of finding an income, make them particularly vulnerable to abuse and require them to obtain specialised help in order to be able to use their potential fully – help which is not always readily available, or available at all, for the poor.

Anyone over the age of 18 who is unable to work and unable to support themselves because of a physical or mental disability or a chronic disease can apply for a disability grant, which amounts to R960 a month. This grant fills another important gap in our welfare net. However, various problems exist with obtaining this grant that result in many people being excluded.

The disabled also continue to face enormous problems in gaining access to amenities and workplaces and have little of the specialised care that should be available to them.

b. The DA's solution

(i) Improving disability grant payments

Currently, before a disability grant is awarded, the applicant's disability must be confirmed by a medical report from a medical officer stating whether the disability is temporary or permanent. In the case of temporary disability, the grant is subject to review at least once a year, while a permanent disability grant must be reviewed once every five years.

There are significant problems with this review process.

In terms of the review process, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) officer must send a review card to the grant recipient in lieu of the impending review. However, often this card does not get sent, or warnings are sent to grant recipients, but the recipients fail to act, because their disability prohibits them from doing so.

The result is that grants are frequently terminated without warning, with catastrophic consequences for recipients. Often an entire household relies on the grant for income, spreading the consequences even wider.

Given the problems that many disabled South Africans face in obtaining their disability grant (DG) reliably, the DA proposes various steps to ensure both the well-being of beneficiaries and the security of the system:

- That DG recipients be given adequate notice of at least 5 months of an impending DG review;
- Furthermore, notice of the impending review must, wherever possible, be given verbally to the recipient at the pay point. For those recipients who do not collect their grant at a pay point, they must be contacted telephonically or via SMS.
- This notice must be provided in addition to a letter being sent to all recipients in their preferred language;
- The grant recipient must be told beforehand what documents will be required during the review process to minimise the number of visits to the welfare office;
- The review must not require more than 1 or 2 visits to the nearest welfare office;
- Wherever possible, medical officers and social workers must visit the DG recipient at his or her home; and
- That consideration is given to exempting certain categories of disability - for example, cerebral palsy, where there is no known cure - from the review process. In cases where recipients are exempt from review, the onus is on the SASSA officer to follow up that the recipient is still alive and that their financial circumstances have not improved beyond the threshold for the means test.

(ii) Removing barriers for the disabled

The DA will remove the barriers preventing the full integration of disabled people into society. While between 5 and 12% of the population are moderately to severely disabled, only 0.2% are in active employment. To address this problem, the DA will:

- Establish more rehabilitation centres.
- Involve business in employing disabled persons.
- Emphasise nationally the need to make barrier-free access to buildings compulsory.
- Introduce an assessment panel to resolve problems over the determination of disability for the purpose of receiving a grant.

PART FOUR: Supporting the Elderly

4.1 The Poor Position of South African Pensioners

The aged are a highly vulnerable sector of the community. The state has a responsibility to ensure that its people are able to care for themselves once they have reached an age at which they can no longer work. It must do this both by ensuring that those who can afford to, do save for their retirement, and by creating a safety net for those who are not able to save for their retirement. It must also ensure that a system exists to ensure that all elderly people receive the care they need.

South Africa has not been altogether successful in this regard. A state pension is available to indigent South Africans. However, millions of South Africans are not eligible for this grant, and have also not saved adequately for their retirement. They therefore face a perilous post-retirement future.

Facilities for those who need special care are currently extremely limited and expensive, and there are extremely few options available to elderly citizens who are too frail to care for themselves but have no family members able to take them in.

The DA's objective is to implement measures that provide the opportunity for all working South Africans (and ultimately all South Africans) to have a pension on retirement on which they can live, and to provide adequate care for elderly citizens who do not have their own support systems.

4.2 Pensions for the Working Population

South Africa needs to find ways to boost the prospects of all South Africans to retire with an income that can at least meet their basic needs. At the same time, a social security system that helps to support elderly South Africans who have had no opportunity to provide for their own needs must also exist.

a. Government's proposed National Social Security Fund

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel announced during his 2008 budget speech that the government plans to establish a contributory social security system, namely a National Social Security Fund (NSSF). Details of the NSSF are still to be finalised, and the state has recently announced that plans to implement the NSSF by 2010 have been delayed.

The system will entail mandatory participation – with all formal sector employees being obliged to contribute to the NSSF. Compulsory contributions to the fund by household employees and the self-employed will be phased in.

Four tiers of contributions have been proposed:

- Social security grants, including an Old Age Pension;
- A universal, mandatory contribution to the state-owned NSSF of 15% of after-tax earnings for those earning less than R60 000 a year, providing basic retirement, unemployment, death and disability benefits;
- A second mandatory tier for those earning more than R60 000 a year to a private sector fund or the NSSF up to a specified level; and

- An additional voluntary third tier, whereby individuals are entitled to contribute on a voluntary basis to a private sector fund.

In addition the state has proposed introducing a wage subsidy for low-wage earners, which will cover the costs of the mandatory contributions to the NSSF. Treasury has estimated that the wage subsidy will cost the state between R20 billion and R30 billion per year.

b. The dangers of the government's proposals

The DA fully supports the principle that individuals who can afford to do so should be required to participate in a retirement scheme. But it is important that any new social security scheme allows South Africans to benefit fully from the money they invest.

In this regard there are some dangers in the government's proposals.

Proposals for pensions reform must attempt to retain the strong features of the system that we currently have. While individual problems in the retirement industry have emerged over the years, and these must continue to be tackled vigorously, the industry is generally sound, competitive and efficient.

However, it is likely that the government's proposal for a centralised fund will reduce competition in the retirement industry, leaving the fund unconstrained by the rigour of a competitive environment and eliminating choice on the part of beneficiaries – features which have both contributed greatly to the strength of our current system.

Furthermore, while government's reform proposals are yet to be clarified, it is likely that the proposed NSSF will be centrally managed by government. Given the skills vacuum prevalent through various government departments, the ability of such a fund to manage beneficiaries' funds in the best possible way must be open to question.

c. The DA's solution

The DA believes that hard-working South Africans should have a choice as to where to invest their money. Rather than acting as a forced investment destination, the NSSF should serve to increase competition in the industry and be operated as a low cost investment vehicle.

A DA government would use the existing industry and the private sector as a platform on which to build a more inclusive framework which encourages and facilitates greater provision for retirement. As such, we propose mandatory contributions to a retirement scheme as follows:

10-12% of the first R700 000 of after-tax earnings must be contributed by, or on behalf of, all formal sector employees to an approved private sector fund of their choice or, alternatively, the state NSSF.

The DA will:

- *Ensure that every South African earning an income makes provision for his or her retirement.* Membership of a retirement scheme will be compulsory for working adults. However, the DA strongly disagrees that individuals should be forced to belong to any particular scheme, and choice must be an important factor of a new retirement system;

- *Automatically include all formal sector employees in a state savings vehicle.* This will be aimed at addressing the inertia which often accompanies retirement planning. But everyone will be given the chance to opt out of the system if they wish to join a private sector fund, and individuals will be given regular opportunities throughout the year to exercise this opt-out option;
- *Operate a state savings scheme as a long-term savings vehicle for anyone who wishes to be a member.* This would be particularly aimed at South Africans earning below R60 000 per year. It would be flexible enough to deal with ad-hoc and infrequent contributions from members, but would otherwise be a standard, uncomplicated product designed to minimise unnecessary costs; and
- *Pay out to beneficiaries a maximum lump sum of one third of retirement savings on retirement, with the balance paid in the form of an annuity.*

4.3 The State Old Age Pension

a. Problems with the State Old Age Pension (SOAP)

Women who reach 60 and men who reach 63 are able to apply for a state old age pension of R960 per month. The grant is subject to a means test to help to ensure that only the poorest citizens receive it. However, there are many problems with the requirements for qualifying for this grant.

As well as being practically difficult and expensive to implement, the means test decreases the incentive for low-wage earners to belong to a retirement fund. Low-income workers who make sacrifices to accumulate retirement savings are in effect penalised by being granted a smaller pension, which means that low-income workers have little to gain from making provision for their own retirement.

The means test also throws up further problems as well:

- a. The means test is not adjusted consistently for general inflation or to cater for higher income earners who are in need of income support. It also does not keep pace with economic growth, leaving a growing gap between incomes and pensions;
- b. It unfairly excludes income categories in need of income support. The bar for qualifying for a pension is set relatively high, leaving many poor people excluded.
- c. The costs of administration are enormous, with, in some provinces, these costs amounting to 30% of the value of the grant.

b. The DA's solution

The state old age pension (SOAP) is a life-line for many elderly South Africans and must continue to provide them with a means of survival. However, the means test is impractical and expensive and excludes many needy people who do not meet its requirements. The DA will therefore abolish the means test for the SOAP and provide a universal old age pension, available to all South Africans.

According to research commissioned by the Department of Social Development, international experience with respect to universal social pensions suggests that the take-up rates are between 75 – 90%.

This policy will go hand-in-hand with our proposals for reform of the pension system for employed South Africans, to ensure that all South Africans make what contributions they are able to make to their financial support in old age.

4.4 Assistance for the Elderly

South Africa has about 3-million people older than 60. Many of these people live on their own or with families but without the specialised care that their frailty or poor health requires. Families and community structures could play a much more effective role in caring for their aged, if they were provided with greater state assistance.

The DA will provide specialised funding for care facilities for elderly citizens who need this. However, the aged should be admitted to old age homes only in exceptional cases of frailty. Rather, the emphasis should be on funding subsidised meal schemes, community health care services and primary health care services, and the DA will place greater emphasis on funding organisations which offer home-based support.

We value families and the important role played by those who care for elderly relatives. We would:

- Introduce an “Extended Family Tax Allowance” for those who share their home with an elderly person, usually a relative. This would operate as an allowance for those not liable for income tax (it would need to be accompanied by a rigorous monitoring mechanism to prevent abuse). This would work towards our objective of building communities and keeping families together; and
- Emphasise “meals on wheels”, home-based care for elderly people staying in their community to enable old people to stay in their own homes and live in dignity.

4.5 The Legal Environment

Current measures to protect the aged against abuse are inadequate, and it is a sad indictment of our society that aged people are often left without protection at a time in their lives when they are most vulnerable.

We propose to create a Regulatory Council for the Care of the Aged. This council will determine and administer a national code of conduct and practice for employers and employees active within the aged care sector. It will also determine policies for the regular monitoring and inspection of homes for the aged and carry out general oversight and review functions.

However, the abuse of elderly people in registered homes is only the tip of the iceberg. The real problem lies with abuse taking place in the larger community - and with people intent on preying on the vulnerabilities of the elderly.

The DA will therefore:

- Establish an office of the Human Rights Commissioner for the Aged within the existing Human Rights Commission. This office will be charged with investigating complaints of abuse and conducting regular investigations of aged care facilities;
- Make it a criminal offence for any person to subject an aged person to assault, systematic neglect or exploitation; and
- Place a legal obligation on anyone who comes across a case where a reasonable suspicion of abuse against an elderly person exists to report the matter.

PART FIVE: Human Resources for Welfare

It is not possible to give any of these different groups of poor South Africans access to the opportunities the DA proposes unless we have enough people to administer grants and provide the services and support that are required.

5.1 A Critical Shortage of Social Development Staff

To function effectively, the social welfare system needs enough staff to administer the grants system and support or directly supply services for the needy. Social workers and others who support the social welfare system play a vital role in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society. Services must be run competently and efficiently; any deviation from this standard is a betrayal of those most in need. In this regard our system is falling far short.

The South African Social Security Agency's 2008 annual report revealed an astonishing overall vacancy rate of 58.7%.

To compound this situation, the finance department tasked with detecting social grant fraud also has an alarming vacancy rate of 49.2%. Similarly the legal department which must initiate legal proceedings against fraudsters is 51.4% vacant. With the high level of social grant fraud and the agency's incapacity to deal with this, it comes as no surprise that SASSA has overspent by R 33 659 000.

However, as of May 2007, there were only 11 952 registered social workers in the country – less than half of which are employed with the Department of Social Development. In addition, only 1 061 students registered in 2007 to study social work.

Social Development Minister Zola Skweyiya has himself admitted that the acute shortage of social service professionals is hindering the department's ability to meet the increasing demand for developmental services in the country.

A costing exercise for the recently passed Children's Act revealed that, if the act were to be properly implemented, there would be a 97% shortfall in the number of social workers required. We still only have around 5000 social workers employed by the department of Social Development and by non- profit organisations. If we were to properly implement the new Children's Act, we need to have 47 305 social workers on duty – and 66 329 for the year 2010.

The Department of Social Development has proposed increasing the number of auxiliary social workers to alleviate the shortage. However, it has not proposed how to ensure that there are even enough auxiliary workers. Figures provided by the South African Council for Social Services Profession indicate that there were only 1 485 auxiliary social workers in May 2007.

5.2 The DA's Solution

There are clearly not enough qualified and skilled social workers and auxiliary social workers in South Africa to deal with the huge demand for social services. The problem of staff shortages in social welfare appears to centre around a dire shortage of young South Africans seeking to take up social work as a career, as well as a reluctance to work in some fields and some locations.

These problems need to be addressed urgently and decisively, both by increasing the number of social workers and other staff available and by finding ways to make work more productive.

a. More social workers

There is no doubt that we need to significantly increase the number of social workers available in our country. We need not only to build more training opportunities, but we have to address problems with the image of social work to increase the intake of students.

(i) Social worker training colleges

Our universities (excluding UNISA) can only train 3000 social workers per year. Since only an estimated 500 complete the four year course, it is clear we will struggle to reach the necessary number of social workers.

It is important that opportunities for training be available in the areas where students live; not only to make it easier for more people to take up this career as an option, but also to ensure that more people will look to be social workers in already deprived areas – students are more likely to return to the areas in which they grew up if they study close by.

Currently, however, social work students can only study at universities and universities of technology, most of which are located in large urban areas.

The DA will change this situation by establishing dedicated training colleges for social workers, with the objective of establishing two in each province, located in smaller towns, within ten years.

(ii) Generous bursaries for able students

Social work students who successfully complete their studies should be able to cover the cost of their studies with bursaries that require them to work for four years in the state sector on completion of their studies. The private sector must be encouraged to become involved in sponsoring these bursaries.

(iii) Improving the image of social work

South Africa's levels of violence, drug abuse and other social problems make it a difficult place for social workers to work, but also one where their contribution can be enormous. More well trained social workers would make South Africa a more peaceful, more hospitable place to live and this role needs to be actively promoted and emphasised to encourage more South Africans to take up this career.

(iv) Recruiting internationally

The DA believes that we should fully exploit the opportunities available to us to recruit social workers and other social development staff from the African continent and the rest of the world. In a globalised world, people move easily and freely across the world and South Africa needs to recognise this and obtain the advantages that it can from it.

We would therefore conduct a rigorous recruitment programme in other countries, and we would look to signing agreements of co-operation particularly with other SADC

countries to govern the ethical recruitment of people with social work skills from the SADC region.

We would also cut all the red tape involved in employing social workers who qualified in other countries.

(v) Addressing the salary gap between NPOs and the public sector

At present, availability within the state of social services fails to meet the needs of children, families and greater society. As such, non-profit organisations (NPOs) provide the bulk of these services – running on state and donor funding. However, these organisations struggle to provide an effective service because they are unable to match the salaries the state pays.

The resulting constant turnover of staff causes erratic service delivery and poor continuity of social services. While degrading the quality of social services in general, this is particularly problematic for children urgently in need of protection or who have been traumatised by neglect or abuse.

The DA therefore proposes that:

- State funding to NGOs be responsibly and systematically increased to address the salary gap between social work practitioners in the public sector relative to those working in NPOs. Ultimately, the DA envisions parity of salary between NPOs and the public sector.
- An independent enquiry be conducted into the National Lottery to establish how its processes could be made more efficient. Many NPOs obtain the bulk of their funding through the Lottery. Yet it has been plagued with management problems resulting in long delays in decisions and payouts.

b. Working more efficiently

In addition to increasing the numbers of social workers and other staff, it is necessary to look at improving the efficiency of the workers that we do have. One way to reduce the impact of staff shortages is to ensure that the work that social workers do can be done more efficiently. This can be done by improving processes (such as focusing on cutting time spent by social workers on waiting for court appearances), using auxiliary social workers and reducing unnecessary tasks for social workers.

(i) Maximising efficiency

In order to ensure that social workers' time is being used as efficiently as possible, the DA will analyse the processes used, in particular, for the processing of grants. Wherever processes can be made more efficient by changing the location where grants are processed or the way in which they are processed, these must be introduced. Particular emphasis must be placed on computerising processes wherever possible.

(ii) One stop shops

The DA plans to use one-stop shops where South African citizens can go to have a wide range of processes completed, including, for example, applying for grants, obtaining identity documents and conducting vehicle-related business. These shops will be staffed by people with a wide range of knowledge. This should reduce the workload on social welfare staff, because only when particular problems arise will their expertise be required.

(iii) Decentralising decision-making

The DA will improve efficiency by decentralising decision-making. District social services offices will be given the freedom to recruit and make some financial decisions, together with the implementation of certain monitoring mechanisms. This will simplify processes and reduce the time taken to, for example, fill vacant positions.