

Access to government services differs between ISRD nodes

Information Brief 2

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Access to government services differs across the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development (ISRD) nodes in South Africa. This is partly because the ISRD nodes are so different to one another when it comes to population characteristics, socio-economic profile, land tenure and use, terrain and climatic conditions.

The **Alfred Nzo** ISRD node generally has poor access to government services. When it comes to secondary education the access study recommended a 249% increase in schools. Learners also have to travel long distances on average to get to primary schools.

Bushbuckridge has a fairly large population that is distributed equally across the node. The services where they have good access include education, social grant pay points and Thusong Service Centres. Within this node there is poor access to health facilities, Home Affairs offices, courts, labour centres and police stations.

A distinguishing feature of **Central Karoo** is that it is made up of small towns surrounded by sparsely populated large farming areas. It is mainly within towns that there is good access to services. People generally have to travel long distances to access services, especially primary and secondary schools, Home Affairs offices, courts and labour centres. Central Karoo has the lowest access to social grant pay points.

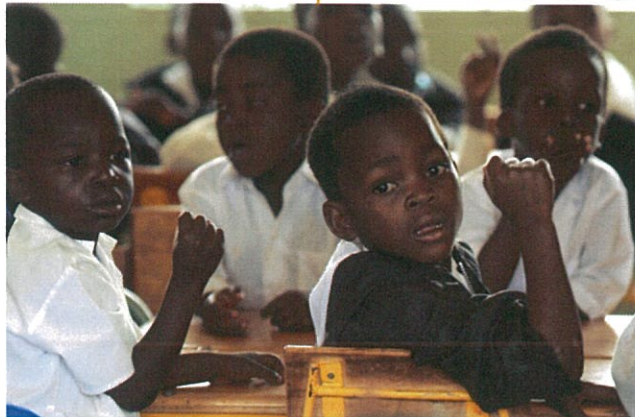
Chris Hani and **Ukhahlamba** are similar to one another in that they have a combination of towns, large commercial farms and rural tribal areas. This results in people having to travel long

distances to get access to government services. In **Chris Hani** people travel more than 2 hrs to get access to labour centres, more than 60 min in getting access to health facilities and police stations and more than 30 min getting to social grant pay points.

In **Kgalagadi** most of population and services are concentrated in the south and eastern parts of the node. Like Chris Hani and Ukhahlamba, Kgalagadi has poor access to health facilities. It also has poor access to courts and labour centres. In contrast it has good access to Home Affairs offices and social grant pay points. Within Kgalagadi there is good access to courts and primary schools to the extent that this node could possibly be over provided with primary schools.

The **Maluti-a-Phofung** ISRD node is quite unique as it has a highly concentrated population in the Phuthaditjhaba area which is surrounded by commercial farms and a number of small towns. In the access study most of the services are allocated to the Phuthaditjhaba area. The average demand for secondary schools, health facilities, Home Affairs offices and social grant pay points is high in this node.

In **Maruleng** the largest concentration of people occurs in the north west where most of the services are located and there is the greatest need for services. Communities in the east of this node have poor access to several government services including primary schools and Home Affairs offices. Across the node there



is poor access to police stations and courts, especially as it has no existing magistrate court. Maruleng does, however, have good access to labour centres and social grant pay points.

With the largest population and provision of government services **OR Tambo** is the one ISRD node that stands out against the rest. Even with the high numbers of services it is the ISRD node that often has poor access to especially health facilities, courts, labour centres and police stations. This is often caused by the high demand that this node has, which has resulted in their being a significant under supply of secondary schools resulting in a recommended increase of 279%. In contrast, OR Tambo has good access to primary schools.

Sekhukhune like OR Tambo has a fairly large population and has good access to most government services, especially secondary schools. Although it has good access many of the existing services are not optimally located. This refers especially to Home Affairs offices, labour centres, Thusong Service Centres, police stations and social grant pay points. Within Sekhukhune there is a high average demand for health facilities and most communities travel more than 60 min to get access to courts.

Ugu is unique in that it has a highly populated urban sector running along its coastline and very populated rural areas in the interior. There is a tendency for services to be concentrated in the more populated coastal areas than in the interior. Although this node has good access to government services, especially Home Affairs offices, social grant pay points and Thusong Service Centres, most of the services are not optimally located. It is also one of the nodes where there is an under supply of secondary schools.

Access within **Umkhanyakude** is influenced by the wilderness and conservation areas. It is one of the ISRD nodes with the poorest access to government services. There are too few primary and secondary schools in the node resulting in a suggested increase of 16% and 22% respectively. A high average demand per health facility also

exists. Travel times in getting access to Home Affairs offices, police stations, courts, labour centres and Thusong Service Centre all exceed 60 min.

The population in **Umzimkhulu** is evenly distributed across the node and so too are the government services. Umzimkhulu has good access to primary schools, police stations and social grant pay points. Although there is good access to health facilities there is a need to optimize their geographic locations. Home Affairs offices and magistrate courts are not evenly distributed resulting in travel times in excess of 60 min. Within this node there are no labour centres and Thusong Service Centres resulting in long travel times of over 2 hours to get access to these facilities. The provision of secondary schools is poor resulting in a suggested 270% increase in secondary schools.

Umzinyathi and **Zululand** are similar to one another in that they have distinct areas where there are concentrations of population and services. In Umzinyathi the provision of government services is closely linked to where the population is located. There is good access to most government services including primary and secondary schools as well as police stations. Communities have poor

access to courts and have to travel more than an hour to access labour centres and more than two hours to access a Thusong Service Centre.

In **Zululand** there is good access to primary schools. An under supply of secondary schools has resulted in a 34% increase being recommended in the accessibility modeling. When it comes to Home Affairs offices, courts and labour centres there is not only a high demand but also long distances that people have to travel to access these facilities. There is also poor access to police stations, social grant pay points and Thusong Service Centres.



For further information please refer to the final report. Contact Trevor Holdsworth at the Dept of Public Service and Administration (dpsa) on (012) 336 1040 or trevorh@dpsa.gov.za