

# Foreword

This annual publication provides an overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa and has become an important planning and management resource for health service providers, managers, researchers and policy makers in the country.

The current 11th edition of the *District Health Barometer* (DHB) covers 52 districts and includes a total of 47 financial and health indicators, nine of which are new indicators. The publication informs district, provincial and national strategic plans as it measures similar indicators at the different levels. This edition paints a mixed picture, showing significant gains in some areas while highlighting areas that need further attention.

The use of information to monitor quality of care, health outcomes and data quality is critical at all levels of the health system. We urge health service providers, managers, researchers and policy makers to make use of this valuable information to improve services provided to the South African population.

As always, we welcome commentary and feedback on this edition of the DHB which will enable us to improve future versions of this publication.

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