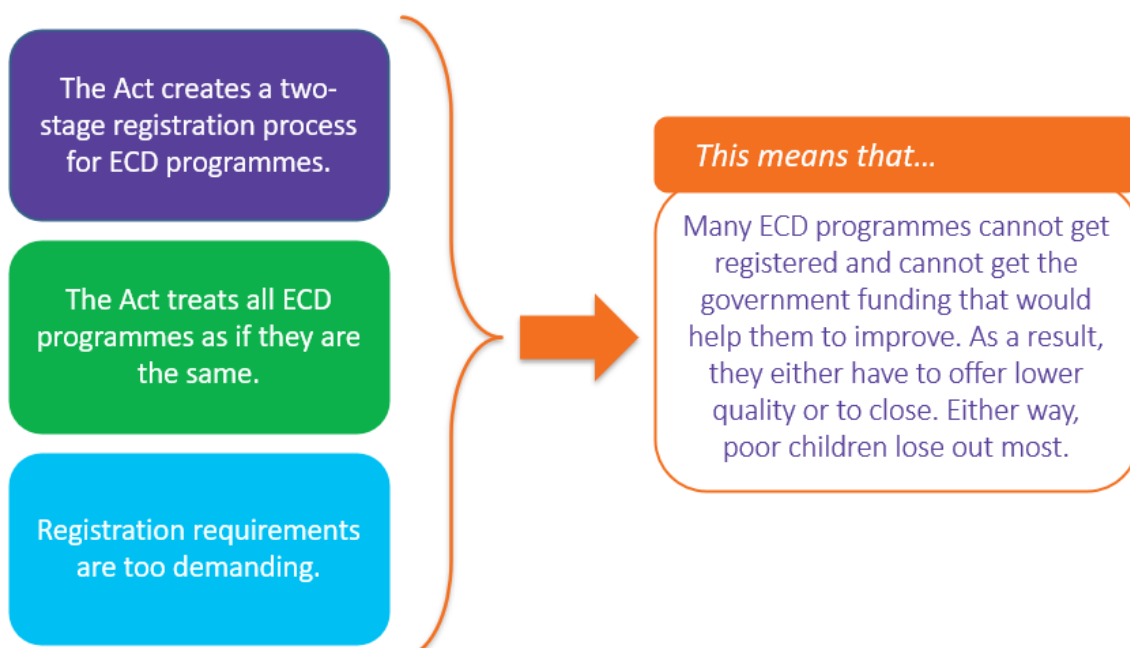


## The Children's Amendment Bill and Early Childhood Development (ECD)

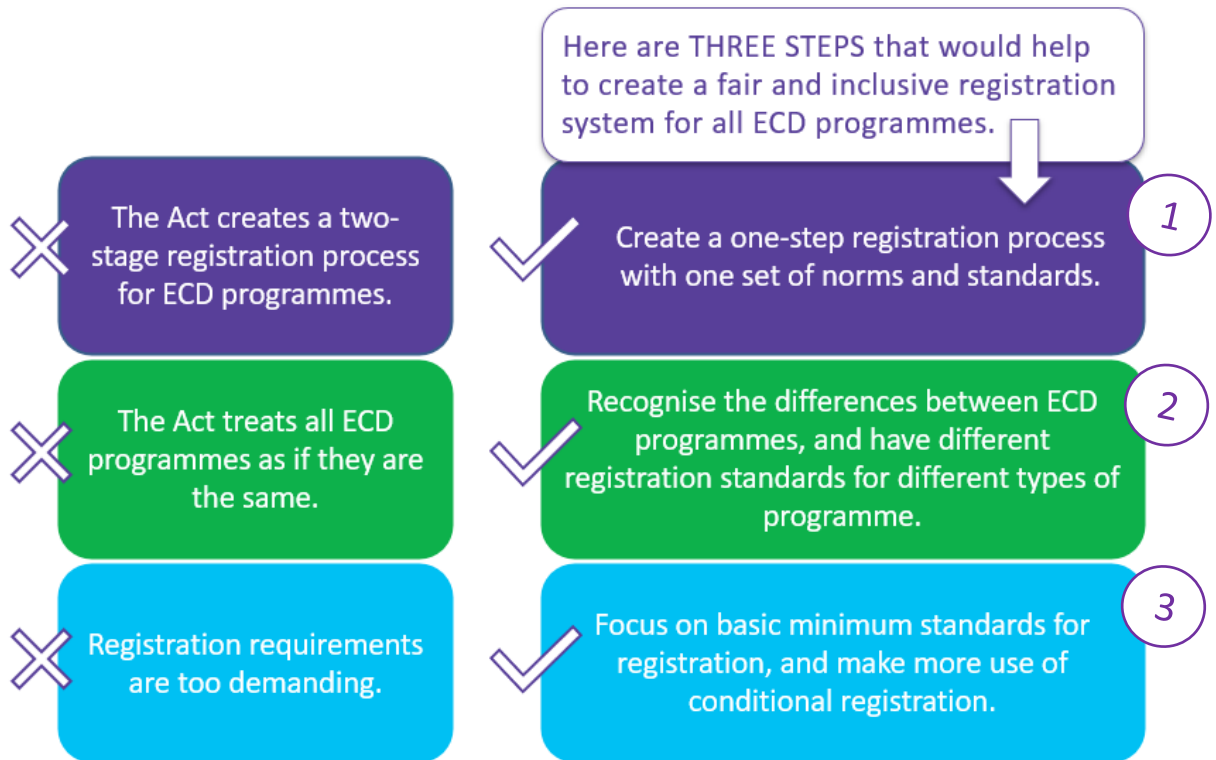
### A QUICK SUMMARY

- South Africa has a piece of law called the Children's Act. It covers lots of different issues affecting children. It includes rules on how early childhood development programmes must be supported, registered and funded.
- There are a lot of problems with these rules. And these problems mean that many ECD programmes across South Africa cannot get registered or funded. This affects programmes in poor communities the most.
- The government has just published a new piece of law which will change the Children's Act. It is called The Children's Amendment Bill. Unfortunately, the Bill does not sort out the problems for ECD – and in some ways, it makes things worse.
- Over the next 1-2 years, Parliament will debate this Bill and will have the chance to make changes. **We need to raise our voices and make policy-makers listen!**

### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



## WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- A special committee in parliament will start considering the Children's Amendment Bill in February next year. They have asked the public to send in their views. **There is a step by step guide on how to make a submission on the SmartStart website, along with templates that you can use – [www.smartstart.org.za/the-childrens-amendment-bill](http://www.smartstart.org.za/the-childrens-amendment-bill). The deadline for submissions is 27<sup>th</sup> November.**
- You can also visit the campaign website at [www.ecdreform.org.za](http://www.ecdreform.org.za) to find out about other ways you can get involved.

This is an important opportunity for change. Your involvement won't take much of your time and could make a BIG difference!

