

South Africa

Customary Initiation Act, 2021

Act 2 of 2021

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Customary Initiation Act, 2021

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Act 2 of 2021

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Assented to on 1 June 2021

Commenced on 1 September 2021 by Customary Initiation Act, 2021: Commencement

[This is the version of this document from 4 June 2021.]

(English text signed by the President)

ACT

To provide for the effective regulation of customary initiation practices; to provide for the establishment of a National Initiation Oversight Committee and Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committees and their functions; to provide for the responsibilities, roles and functions of the various role-players involved in initiation practices as such or in the governance aspects thereof; to provide for the effective regulation of initiation schools; to provide for regulatory powers of the Minister and Premiers; to provide for the monitoring of the implementation of this Act; to provide for provincial peculiarities; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

WHEREAS the Constitution recognises—

- the right to life;
- the right to bodily and psychological integrity;
- the rights of persons to enjoy their culture;
- the rights of persons to form, join and maintain cultural associations; and
- the rights of children to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation;

AND WHEREAS customary initiation is practiced by many communities in South Africa as a sacred and respected practice, and in some instances is regarded as a rite of passage to adulthood;

AND WHEREAS initiation is an embodiment of ideals, values and aspirations of both the individual and the community, reflected in the transfer of teachings about culture, tradition and respect (especially for women and the elderly);

AND WHEREAS—

- the customary practice of initiation has been subject to abuse which in many instances has resulted in serious injuries to, and even the death of, initiates;
- initiation schools have not been effectively regulated;
- existing relevant laws only deal with certain aspects of initiation and not with initiation in general; and
- some initiation schools operate for personal financial gain only with little or no concern for the well-being of initiates;

AND WHEREAS—

- government has a duty to protect the lives of initiates;
- government has a duty to set norms and standards within which the customary practice of initiation must take place;

- all role-players involved in initiation must be accountable for their respective responsibilities, duties, roles and functions;
- the customary practice of initiation must, where necessary, be transformed to reflect the Constitutional principles, especially the principles contained in the Bill of Rights; and
- all role-players have an obligation to restore the integrity and legitimacy of the customary practice of initiation;

AND WHEREAS the [Constitution](#) provides that national or provincial legislation may provide for cultural matters,

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Chapter 1

Interpretation, application, objectives and principles

1. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise—

"**abduction**" means the unlawful removal of a child from the control of his or her parents or customary or legal guardian, as the case may be, or unlawful retention of such child, for the purposes of attending an initiation school, whether registered or not;

"**abuse**" includes but is not limited to physical or mental abuse, sexual abuse, any form of gender-based violence and any harmful practice that an initiate may be subjected to;

"**area of jurisdiction**" means the area of jurisdiction of a traditional council, kingship or queenship council, or principal traditional council as contemplated in sections 3, 3A and 3B of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA or section 16(5)(a) of the TKLA once it commences;

"**care-giver**" means any person other than a parent or the customary or legal guardian of an initiate who takes care of such initiate during initiation in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

"**child**" means a person under the age of 18 years as defined in section 1 of the Children's Act and any reference to 'children' has a corresponding meaning;

"**Child Justice Act**" means the Child Justice Act, 2008 ([Act No. 75 of 2008](#));

"**Children's Act**" means the Children's Act, 2005 ([Act No. 38 of 2005](#));

"**circumcision**", in relation to a female child, means the removal of the clitoris by any means and, in relation to a male child, means the surgical removal of the foreskin, whether partially or wholly, as part of a customary initiation process;

"**Criminal Procedure Act**" means the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 ([Act No. 51 of 1977](#));

"**CRL Rights Commission**" means the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities as contemplated in section 181(1)(c) of the [Constitution](#) and the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities Act, 2002 ([Act No. 19 of 2002](#));

"**curriculum**" means a set of learning content for initiation and includes any customary or cultural practice that forms part of the initiation process;

"**customary guardian**" means any person other than a parent or legal guardian who, in terms of the customs of a particular community, accepts parental responsibility for a child, including the responsibilities referred to in section 18 of the Children's Act;

"**Department**" means the national department responsible for traditional affairs;

"Director-General" means the Director-General of the Department;

"district municipality" means a district municipality as defined in section 1 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 ([Act No. 117 of 1998](#));

"Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act" means the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 ([Act No. 140 of 1992](#));

"emergency services" means any services needed as a response to an urgent, impending or recurrent situation for which knowledgeable and expert intervention is required to ensure the welfare of initiates and any other person present at an initiation school, including but not limited to emergency medical services, ambulance services, fire-fighting services and disaster management services;

"Framework Act" means the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act, 2003 ([Act No. 41 of 2003](#));

"General Regulations Regarding Children" means the General Regulations Regarding Children, 2010, published under Government Notice R.261 in *Government Gazette* No. 33076 of 1 April 2010;

"genital mutilation", in relation to a female child, means the partial or complete removal of any part of the genitals, and includes circumcision of female children;

"Health Professions Act" means the Health Professions Act, 1974 ([Act No. 56 of 1974](#));

"initiate" means any person who attends an initiation school for the purposes of undergoing customary or cultural practices, rituals or ceremonies in accordance with the customs and traditions of the community concerned;

"initiation" means any customary or cultural practices, rituals or ceremonies taking place at an initiation school in accordance with the customs and traditions of the community concerned, and may include teachings relating to ideals, values, aspirations and respect;

"initiation school" means any place where initiation takes place and which is registered as an initiation school as contemplated in section 26 of this Act, irrespective of whether such place is located within or outside the area of jurisdiction of a kingship or queenship council, principal traditional council or traditional council;

"kidnapping" means the unlawful and intentional deprivation of the freedom of movement of any person for the purposes of attending an initiation school, whether registered or not;

"kingship or queenship council" means a kingship or queenship council as defined in section 1 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA or section 1 of the TKLA once it commences;

"Liquor Act" means the Liquor Act, 2003 ([Act No. 59 of 2003](#));

"local house" means a local house of traditional leaders established in accordance with the provisions of section 17 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA, section 50 of the TKLA or any applicable provincial legislation;

"local municipality" means a local municipality as defined in section 1 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 ([Act No. 117 of 1998](#));

"MEC" means a member of the Executive Council of a province;

"medical practitioner" means a general practitioner or family physician in medicine who, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Relating to the Registration of Persons as General Practitioners and Family Physicians in Medicine, as published under Government Notice No. R1200 of 28 November 2000, is registered with the Medical and Dental Professional Board established by Government Notice No. R.75 of 16 January 1998;

"metropolitan municipality" means a metropolitan municipality as defined in section 1 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 ([Act No. 117 of 1998](#));

"Minister" means the national Minister responsible for traditional affairs;

"National Health Act" means the National Health Act, 2003 ([Act No. 61 of 2003](#));

"National House" means the National House of Traditional Leaders established in terms of section 2 of the National House of Traditional Leaders Act, 2009 ([Act No. 22 of 2009](#)) prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA or in terms of section 27 of the TKLA;

"NIOC" means the National Initiation Oversight Committee established in accordance with the provisions of [section 4](#) of this Act;

"NPA" means the National Prosecuting Authority established in terms of the National Prosecuting Authority Act, 1998 ([Act No. 32 of 1998](#));

"organised local government in the province" means a provincial organisation recognised in terms of section 2(1)(b) of the Organised Local Government Act, 1997 ([Act No. 52 of 1997](#));

"PICC" means a Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee established in accordance with the provisions of [section 11](#) of this Act;

"principal" means the person who has permission to hold an initiation school and who is to be held accountable for the operations and management of such a school;

"prescribe" means prescribe by regulation made in terms of [section 35](#) of this Act;

"principal traditional council" means a principal traditional council as defined in section 1 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA or section 1 of the TKLA once it commences;

"provincial house" means a provincial house of traditional leaders established in accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA, section 49 of the TKLA or any applicable provincial legislation;

"sacred and secret" means traditional and religious customs and rituals which are performed and taught before, during and after initiation, and which for traditional or religious reasons are not to be made public;

"SAPS" means the South African Police Service established in terms of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 ([Act No. 68 of 1995](#));

"standards for initiation school premises" means the standards for initiation school premises published under [General Notice No. 1229 of 2015](#) in *Government Gazette* No. 39561 of 24 December 2015 as part of the National Health Norms and Standards for Premises, as may be amended from time to time;

"this Act" includes any regulations made in terms of any relevant provision of this Act;

"TKLA" means the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 2019 ([Act No. 3 of 2019](#));

"traditional community" means a community recognised as such in terms of section 2 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA, section 3 of the TKLA or any applicable provincial legislation;

"traditional council" means a traditional council as defined in section 1 of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA or section 1 of the TKLA once it commences;

"traditional health practitioner" means a traditional health practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act;

"Traditional Health Practitioners Act" means the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, 2007 ([Act No. 22 of 2007](#));

"traditional leader" means a person who, in terms of customary law of the traditional community concerned, holds a traditional leadership position and has been recognised in terms of the Framework Act prior to the repeal of that Act by the TKLA, the TKLA or any applicable provincial legislation;

"traditional leadership" means the customary institutions or structures, or customary systems or procedures of governance, which are recognised, used or practiced by traditional communities; and

"**traditional surgeon**" means a person who, subject to [section 41](#), is registered as a traditional surgeon in terms of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act.

2. Application, objectives, interpretation and prohibitions

- (1) This Act applies to—
 - (a) the customary initiation practices in respect of both male and female initiates;
 - (b) all initiation schools; and
 - (c) all role-players involved in initiation practices.
- (2) The main objectives of this Act are—
 - (a) to protect, promote and regulate initiation and for this purpose—
 - (i) to provide acceptable norms and standards; and
 - (ii) to provide for initiation oversight and coordinating structures at the national and provincial spheres of government with a view to ensure that initiation takes place in a controlled environment;
 - (b) to provide for the protection of life, the prevention of injuries and the prevention of all forms of abuse that initiates may be subjected to as a result of initiation practices;
 - (c) to address the governance aspects of initiation and the roles of all relevant role-players; and
 - (d) to protect the customary practice of initiation and ensure that it is practiced within the Constitutional and other legal prescripts.
- (3) Any provision of this Act that requires the consultation or involvement of a provincial or local house of traditional leaders has to be complied with only in instances where such a house has been lawfully established: Provided that in instances where such a house has not been established, such requirement does not apply and has no effect on any action or decision taken in terms of the relevant provision: Provided further that in instances where such a house has not been established, the relevant Premier or PICC, as the case may be, may, for the purposes of [sections 35\(4\)](#), [37\(1\)](#) and [39\(5\)](#), consult any other relevant body or institution.
- (4)
 - (a) Any principal, care-giver, traditional surgeon or traditional health practitioner who is involved in initiation practices or any aspect of such practice, must, subject to [section 37\(3\)](#) and (4), be at least 40 years old and must have undergone initiation himself or herself.
 - (b) A principal must have prior and proven experience as a care-giver for a minimum of five initiation seasons.
 - (c) A care-giver, traditional surgeon or traditional health practitioner may only be involved in initiation practices or any aspect of such practice, after a period of 10 years has lapsed since he or she graduated from an initiation school.
- (5) No person may participate in any aspect of initiation if that person is unsuitable to work with children in terms of a finding contemplated in section 120 of the Children's Act or if that person's name is listed—
 - (a) in Part B of the National Child Protection Register as contemplated in section 111 of the Children's Act, read with section 118 thereof;
 - (b) in the National Register for Sex Offenders as contemplated in section 42 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 ([Act No. 32 of 2007](#)); or
 - (c) in the database of a PICC as contemplated in [section 33\(10\)](#) of this Act.

- (6) Nothing contained in this Act may be construed as precluding any person from referring to any principal, care-giver, traditional surgeon or traditional health practitioner in the vernacular of a specific area.
- (7) No role-player who is involved in initiation practices may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against an initiate or prospective initiate on the grounds of disability, gender or sexual orientation.
- (8)
 - (a) Every initiate has the right to confidentiality regarding his or her health status.
 - (b) A medical certificate required in terms of the provisions of this Act is confidential and must be treated as such by the medical practitioner issuing the certificate and by any person or body to whom such certificate must be submitted in terms of this Act.
 - (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the confidential status of a medical certificate may not be used as a reason for non-compliance with [section 22\(1\)\(c\) to \(f\)](#) or (2).

3. Guiding principles

The customary practice of initiation is subject to the [Constitution](#) and must be transformed and adapted so as to comply with the relevant principles contained in the Bill of Rights in the [Constitution](#), in particular by—

- (a) protecting the lives and dignity of initiates as referred to in sections 10 and 11 of the [Constitution](#);
- (b) providing initiates with access to sufficient food and water, health care services and, where necessary, emergency medical treatment as referred to in section 27 of the [Constitution](#); and
- (c) protecting and promoting the rights of children as referred to in section 28 of the [Constitution](#).

Chapter 2 Oversight and coordinating structures

Part 1 – National Initiation Oversight Committee

4. Establishment, composition and term of office

- (1) The Minister must, by notice in the *Gazette* and subject to the provisions of subsection (3) and [section 6](#), establish a National Initiation Oversight Committee consisting of—
 - (a) three members of the National House, designated by the members of the National House from amongst themselves;
 - (b) one Commissioner from the CRL Rights Commission, designated by the Commission;
 - (c) one member from the Interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council of South Africa, designated by the Council from amongst the members contemplated in section 7(a), (b) and (i) of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act;
 - (d) one senior official from the Department, designated by the Minister;
 - (e) one senior official from the Department of Health, designated by the Minister responsible for health;
 - (f) one senior official from the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, designated by the Minister responsible for women, youth and persons with disabilities;
 - (g) one senior official from the NPA, designated by the National Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - (h) one senior official from the SAPS, designated by the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service;

- (i) one senior official from the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture who has knowledge of cultural customs, designated by the Minister responsible for Sports, Arts and Culture; and
 - (j) if deemed necessary by the Minister and subject to subsection (4), not more than two other persons designated by the Minister which persons must have a qualification or experience in or knowledge appropriate to—
 - (i) anthropology; and
 - (ii) customary law and customs.
- (2) The term of office of the NIOC is five years and must be aligned to the term of office of the National House.
- (3) At least three members of the NIOC must be women.
- (4) A person contemplated in subsection (1)(j) may, subject to subsection (2), be designated at any stage during the term of the NIOC for the period indicated in such designation.

5. Chairperson and deputy chairperson

- (1) The NIOC must, at its first meeting after it has been established, which meeting must be convened and chaired by the Minister or by the Director-General if so directed by the Minister, elect—
 - (a) a chairperson from amongst the members referred to in [section 4\(1\)\(a\), \(b\) and \(c\)](#); and
 - (b) a deputy chairperson from amongst themselves.
- (2) The chairperson presides over meetings of the NIOC.
- (3) If the chairperson is absent or for any reason unable to exercise or perform the powers or functions contemplated in this Act, or when the office of the chairperson is vacant, the deputy chairperson must act as chairperson during the chairperson's absence or inability, or until a chairperson is elected.

6. Disqualifications

A person is not eligible to be designated as a member of the NIOC if that person—

- (a) is not a South African citizen;
- (b) is under 18 years of age;
- (c) has been convicted of an offence in respect of which he or she was sentenced to imprisonment for more than 12 months without the option of a fine;
- (d) is an unrehabilitated insolvent or has entered into a compromise with his or her creditors;
- (e) is of unsound mind and has been so declared by a competent court;
- (f) is or becomes a full-time member of a municipal council;
- (g) is elected as a member of a provincial legislature;
- (h) is elected as a member of the National Assembly;
- (i) is appointed as a permanent delegate in the National Council of Provinces; or
- (j) is prohibited in terms of the provisions of [section 2\(5\)](#).

7. Vacancies

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the NIOC, such a vacancy must, within 30 calendar days of the vacancy having arisen, be filled with a person designated in accordance with the provisions of [section 4\(1\)](#), for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

8. Meetings

- (1) The NIOC must meet at least four times per annum.
- (2)
 - (a) Meetings of the NIOC must be held at a place, on a date and at a time to be determined by the chairperson of the NIOC.
 - (b) The chairperson of the NIOC must give notice of any such meeting to the members of the NIOC at least seven calendar days prior to such meeting.
 - (c) The chairperson of the NIOC may, on request of the Minister or the Director-General, convene a special meeting of which notice must be given to the members of the NIOC at least two calendar days prior to such meeting.
- (3) Five members of the NIOC constitute a quorum.
- (4)
 - (a) Minutes and records of the meetings of the NIOC must be kept and filed by the secretariat envisaged in [section 10\(2\)](#).
 - (b) The minutes of any meeting must be endorsed by the NIOC at its next meeting and within two weeks of such meeting, be submitted to the Minister and Director-General for their information.

9. Functions

- (1)
 - (a) The NIOC must—
 - (i) monitor the implementation of this Act;
 - (ii) promote compliance with the provisions of this Act amongst all role-players who are involved in initiation practices and initiation schools;
 - (iii) guide the PICCs on the implementation of this Act and initiation practices in general;
 - (iv) make recommendations to the relevant PICC in respect of the closing of any non-registered initiation school or the deregistration of any initiation school that does not comply with or meet the requirements of this Act;
 - (v) subject to any applicable legislation, consider and resolve any dispute referred to it by a PICC in terms of [section 15\(5\)\(b\)](#) or (c), within five calendar days from the date of receipt of the referral of a dispute, and the decision of the NIOC in respect of any such dispute is final;
 - (vi) subject to subsection (3), keep comprehensive statistics on initiation; and
 - (vii) perform any other task relating to initiation as may be directed by the Minister.
 - (b) The NIOC may—
 - (i) inspect any initiation school to establish whether such a school meets the requirements set out in this Act;
 - (ii) investigate any alleged abuse of initiates;

- (iii) conduct initiation awareness campaigns which must include information on the rights and responsibilities of initiates and their parents or legal or customary guardians as provided for in the [Constitution](#), this Act and any other relevant law;
- (iv) oversee initiation awareness campaigns as may be conducted by a PICC;
- (v) operate a hotline where any alleged contravention of the provisions of this Act may be reported;
- (vi) investigate any alleged contravention reported to the hotline contemplated in subparagraph (v); and
- (vii) in consultation with the Department of Health and the Health Professions Council of South Africa established in terms of section 2 of the Health Professions Act, develop guidelines to be used by medical practitioners for the purposes of determining whether a person is fit to participate in initiation practices as contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(c\)](#):

Provided that the NIOC must, prior to any inspection or investigation contemplated in subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (vi), inform the relevant PICC of its intention to conduct such an inspection or investigation which PICC must designate one of its members to assist the NIOC: Provided further that if the NIOC is not in a position to investigate any alleged abuse as contemplated in subparagraph (ii) or any alleged contravention reported to the hotline contemplated in subparagraph (vi), the NIOC must refer the matter to the relevant PICC for investigation and request such PICC to submit a report to the NIOC.

- (2) (a) The NIOC must, within seven calendar days from the completion of any inspection or investigation contemplated in subsection (1)(b)(i), (ii) and (vi), prepare and submit a report to the Minister, the relevant Premier, relevant MECs, PICC and, for the purpose of subsection (1)(b)(ii), SAPS.
- (b) (i) Before the end of March and September of each year, the NIOC must, in respect of the preceding six months, prepare a report on the performance of its functions contemplated in subsection (1) and submit such report to the Minister.
- (ii) A report contemplated in subparagraph (i) must, with the approval of the Minister, be submitted to all Premiers, relevant MECs and all PICCs within 14 calendar days from the date of approval by the Minister.
- (c) A report of the NIOC contemplated in paragraph (a) or (b) may contain recommendations to be implemented by a PICC.
- (3) (a) For the purposes of keeping the statistics contemplated in subsection (1)(a)(vi), the NIOC must develop and maintain a database.
- (b) The database must include—
 - (i) copies of the reports contemplated in [section 15\(1\)\(p\)](#), (2)(a) and (6)(a), which copies must be provided to the NIOC by the PICCs;
 - (ii) any report contemplated in subsection (2);
 - (iii) any statistics and copies of registers or records contemplated in [section 15](#) and any information contemplated in [section 15\(2\)\(k\)](#) which, upon request of the NIOC, must be submitted by the relevant PICC to the NIOC; and
 - (iv) any other information as may be deemed necessary by the NIOC or as may be requested by the Minister.
- (4) If, during any inspection or investigation contemplated in this section, the NIOC becomes aware of any possible or alleged criminal conduct, the NIOC must immediately report such conduct to the SAPS for investigation.

10. Administrative and financial support

- (1) The Department must provide such administrative and financial support to the NIOC as may be required to enable the NIOC to perform the functions assigned to it by this Act.
- (2) The Director-General must designate officials from the Department to provide specified administrative support, including secretariat support, to the NIOC for the period indicated in such designation.
- (3) For the purposes of providing financial support to the NIOC, the chairperson of the NIOC must, before a date determined by the Director-General, submit annual estimates of expenditure for the next financial year to the Director-General.

Part 2 – Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committees

11. Establishment, composition and term of office

- (1) In a province where a provincial house has been established and initiation takes place within such province, the Premier of such province must, subject to subsections (4) and (6) and sections [16\(4\)](#) and [38](#), and after consultation with the provincial house, by notice in the *Provincial Gazette* establish a Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee consisting of—
 - (a) four members of the provincial house, designated by the members of the provincial house from amongst themselves;
 - (b) two officials from the provincial government, designated by the MEC responsible for initiation in the province;
 - (c) not more than two persons representing the metropolitan, district and local municipalities in whose areas of jurisdiction initiation schools are held, designated by the organised local government in the province;
 - (d) not more than two persons representing the emergency services within the province, designated by the MEC or MECs responsible for the respective emergency services within the province; and
 - (e) the traditional health practitioner of the particular province who, in terms of section 7(c) of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, is a member of the Interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council of South Africa.
- (2) In a province where a provincial house has not been established but where traditional leaders have been recognised and initiation takes place within such province, the Premier of such province must, subject to subsections (4) and (6) and sections [16\(4\)](#) and [38](#), and after consultation with the National House, by notice in the *Provincial Gazette* establish a PICC consisting of—
 - (a) two members of the National House, designated by the members of the National House from amongst themselves: Provided that the members of the National House so designated must be conversant with the customary practices of the communities in the province;
 - (b) two traditional leaders designated by the recognised traditional leaders within such province from amongst themselves: Provided that if there are only one or two recognised traditional leaders within such province, such traditional leader or leaders must be regarded as so designated;
 - (c) not more than two officials from the provincial government, designated by the Premier after consultation with the MEC responsible for initiation in the province and the MEC responsible for cultural matters in the province;

- (d) not more than two persons representing the metropolitan, district and local municipalities in whose areas of jurisdiction initiation schools are held, designated by the organised local government in the province;
 - (e) not more than two persons representing the emergency services within the province, designated by the MEC or MECs responsible for the respective emergency services within the province; and
 - (f) the traditional health practitioner of the particular province who, in terms of section 7(c) of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, is a member of the Interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council of South Africa.
- (3) In a province where a provincial house has not been established and where no traditional leaders have been recognised but initiation takes place within the province, the Premier of such province must, subject to subsections (4) and (6) and sections 16(4) and 38, and after consultation with the National House, by notice in the *Provincial Gazette* establish a PICC consisting of—
- (a) two members of the National House, designated by the members of the National House from amongst themselves: Provided that the members of the National House so designated must be conversant with the customary practices of the communities in the province;
 - (b) not more than two officials from the provincial government, designated by the Premier after consultation with the MEC responsible for cultural matters in the province and any other MEC as deemed necessary by the Premier;
 - (c) not more than two persons representing the metropolitan, district and local municipalities in whose areas of jurisdiction initiation schools are held, designated by the organised local government in the province;
 - (d) not more than two persons representing the emergency services within the province, designated by the MEC or MECs responsible for the respective emergency services within the province; and
 - (e) the traditional health practitioner of the particular province who, in terms of section 7(c) of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, is a member of the Interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council of South Africa.
- (4) At least three members of a PICC must be women.
- (5) The term of office of a PICC is five years and must, in the case of a PICC contemplated in subsection (1), be aligned to the term of office of the provincial house and must, in the case of a PICC contemplated in subsections (2) and (3), be aligned to the term of office of the National House.
- (6) A person is not eligible to be designated as a member of a PICC if any of the disqualifications referred to in [section 6](#) applies to such a person.

12. Chairperson and deputy chairperson

- (1) The members of a PICC contemplated in—
- (a) [section 11\(1\)](#) must, at the first meeting of the PICC, elect a chairperson from amongst the members referred to in [section 11\(1\)\(a\)](#) and a deputy chairperson, from amongst themselves;
 - (b) [section 11\(2\)](#) must, at the first meeting of the PICC, elect a chairperson from amongst the members referred to in [section 11\(2\)\(a\)](#) or (b) and a deputy chairperson, from amongst themselves; and
 - (c) [section 11\(3\)](#) must, at the first meeting of the PICC, elect a chairperson and a deputy chairperson from amongst themselves.
- (2) The provisions of [section 5\(2\)](#) and (3) apply with the necessary changes to a PICC.

13. Vacancies

Whenever a vacancy occurs in a PICC, such a vacancy must, within 30 calendar days of the vacancy having arisen, be filled with a person designated in accordance with the provisions of [section 11](#)(1), (2) or (3), as the case may be, for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

14. Meetings

- (1) A PICC must meet at least four times per annum.
- (2)
 - (a) Meetings of a PICC must be held within the particular province on a date and at a time and place to be determined by the chairperson of the PICC.
 - (b) The chairperson of a PICC must give notice of any such meeting to the members of the PICC at least seven calendar days prior to such meeting.
 - (c) The chairperson of a PICC may, on request of the Premier or the MEC responsible for initiation in the province, convene a special meeting of which notice must be given to the members of the PICC at least two calendar days prior to such meeting.
- (3) The quorum for any meeting of a PICC is 50 percent plus one of the total number of filled positions of the PICC.
- (4)
 - (a) Minutes and records of the meetings of a PICC must be kept and filed by the secretariat envisaged in [section 17](#)(3).
 - (b) The minutes of any meeting must be endorsed by the PICC at its next meeting and within two weeks of such meeting, be submitted to the Premier, any relevant MEC of the province, the Director-General and the chairperson of the NIOC for their information.

15. Functions

- (1) A PICC must coordinate all initiation schools, practices and activities within the particular province and must, for this purpose—
 - (a) promote cooperation between traditional leadership, government and any other role-players in respect of initiation schools and practices;
 - (b) receive and consider an application by a principal to open and hold an initiation school;
 - (c) register any initiation school whose application has been approved and issue a letter confirming such registration to the principal;
 - (d) keep a register of all registered initiation schools and screened principals as contemplated in [section 20](#)(2);
 - (e) determine the number of initiation schools to be allowed within a particular municipal area in the province taking into account criteria as may be determined by the PICC, including the proximity of the schools to one another, the number of available traditional surgeons in the municipal area, the availability of sufficient and appropriate space and land, the availability of proper habitable structures conducive to initiation practices, the provision of municipal services at such initiation schools and accessibility of the schools;
 - (f) determine the maximum number of initiates that may be admitted to a specific initiation school;
 - (g) develop criteria and requirements with which prospective initiation schools must comply prior to such schools being registered and opened, including health, water, sanitation and safety requirements, and taking into account the standards for initiation school premises insofar as such standards are not inconsistent with this Act, to ensure that the overall objectives and directives of this Act are met;

- (h) determine the process to be followed by prospective initiation schools for the purposes of the registration of such schools;
 - (i) consider the curriculum of any prospective initiation school with a view to ensure that—
 - (i) the provisions of [section 29\(3\)](#) are complied with;
 - (ii) where applicable, male circumcision will be performed in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and
 - (iii) no illegal activities form part of the initiation practices:

Provided that a principal must present the curriculum of the particular initiation school to the PICC, excluding any initiation activities which are deemed to be sacred and secret by the relevant community: Provided further that the principal must declare to the PICC that no such sacred and secret activities are illegal or harmful;
 - (j) subject to subsection (11), investigate any alleged abuse of initiates at any initiation school;
 - (k) receive and keep record of medical certificates contemplated in sections [22\(1\)\(c\)](#) and [28\(1\)\(c\)](#), that has been issued to potential initiates declaring them fit to undergo initiation;
 - (l) receive and keep record of all required consent documents contemplated in [section 28](#);
 - (m) monitor and evaluate the general functioning of initiation schools during the initiation period;
 - (n) conduct awareness campaigns on initiation within the province, which must include information on the rights and responsibilities of initiates and their parents or legal or customary guardians as provided for in the [Constitution](#), this Act and any other relevant law;
 - (o) coordinate the flow of information between different role-players, including information relating to interventions in initiation schools; and
 - (p) investigate any matter referred to it by the NIOC in accordance with the provisions of [section 9\(1\)\(b\)](#) and upon conclusion of such investigation, submit a report to the NIOC.
- (2) A PICC must keep a comprehensive database of each initiation school which must at least include—
- (a) any reports relating to initiation as conducted at such schools;
 - (b) the daily visitor records of such schools;
 - (c) financial reports containing details of all income and expenditure;
 - (d) detailed information on all initiates, including their full names, identity numbers, age, gender, race, ethnic group and residential address;
 - (e) the full names and contact details, including residential address, of the parents or customary or legal guardians of the initiates;
 - (f) the full names, identity number, age, gender, qualifications and contact details, including residential address, of any medical practitioner or traditional surgeon who is involved in initiation at the particular initiation school;
 - (g) detailed information on any principal, care-giver, traditional health practitioner or any other person involved in initiation at the particular initiation school, including their full names, identity numbers, age, gender and contact details, including residential address;
 - (h) where applicable, the date on which circumcision was done, the time at which it was done and, in respect of each relevant initiate and notwithstanding paragraph (f), the name and identity number of the medical practitioner or traditional surgeon who performed circumcision on such initiate;
 - (i) any specific health problems being experienced by an initiate;

- (j) any register and records referred to in subsection (1);
 - (k) information relating to the nature and cause of the hospitalisation and any loss of life of an initiate; and
 - (l) information relating to offences contemplated in [section 33\(10\)](#).
- (3) A PICC—
- (a) may develop a manual relating to the responsibilities, roles and functions of principals, traditional surgeons, care-givers and traditional health practitioners in respect of initiation practices, schools and activities, which must include provisions relating to educational, health and safety aspects;
 - (b) must arrange for the training of principals, traditional surgeons, care-givers and traditional health practitioners on any manual developed in accordance with paragraph (a) or, in collaboration with the provincial department responsible for health or any other relevant department, arrange for their training on any matter which would enable them to perform their responsibilities, duties, roles and functions in respect of initiation in general and as contemplated in this Act;
 - (c) may develop an appropriate code of conduct for all persons involved in initiation;
 - (d) may, subject to [section 28\(9\)](#), develop appropriate forms; and
 - (e) may inspect any initiation school to establish whether such a school meets the requirements set out in this Act or any criteria developed by the relevant PICC.
- (4) Any criteria, requirements, process, manual, code of conduct and forms as contemplated in subsection (1)(g) or (h) or subsection (3)(a), (c) or (d), must be approved by the PICC and published in the *Provincial Gazette*.
- (5)
- (a) A PICC must, subject to any applicable legislation and within five calendar days from receiving a dispute, consider and resolve any dispute relating to initiation arising amongst principals, traditional surgeons, care-givers, initiates, families of initiates, traditional leaders, traditional health practitioners, service providers and the parents or legal or customary guardians of initiates.
 - (b) If a PICC is unable to resolve any dispute referred to in paragraph (a), such dispute must be referred to the NIOC within two days of the expiry of the five calendar days referred to in paragraph (a).
 - (c) In any instance where a PICC is or becomes a party to any dispute referred to in paragraph (a), such dispute must be referred to the NIOC.
- (6)
- (a) If, following an investigation contemplated in subsection (1)(j), a PICC finds evidence of the abuse of any initiate, the PICC must, within one day of such investigation, prepare a comprehensive report in this regard and report such abuse to the SAPS.
 - (b) A PICC must, within one day of becoming aware of any non-registered initiation school operating in the province, investigate the matter, close the school and, where necessary, submit a report to the SAPS to investigate any possible abduction or kidnapping as contemplated in [section 25\(1\)\(b\)](#).
 - (c)
 - (i) A PICC must, within one day of becoming aware that any registered initiation school no longer meets the requirements of this Act, submit a report in this regard to the relevant principal and request the principal to, within two calendar days, rectify the shortcomings of the initiation school as reflected in the report.
 - (ii) If the relevant initiation school still does not meet the requirements of this Act after the two days referred to in subparagraph (i), the PICC must deregister such initiation school and close it.

- (7) (a) If an initiation school is closed or deregistered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the relevant PICC must, where possible and taking into account the customs of the particular community or communities, arrange for the initiates who attended such an initiation school to be transferred to another registered initiation school.
- (b) Before any initiates are transferred as contemplated in paragraph (a), the relevant PICC must arrange for such initiates to be examined by a medical practitioner to establish—
- (i) whether they are fit to continue with initiation; and
- (ii) whether any medical certificate that was previously issued as contemplated in sections [22\(1\)\(c\)](#) and [28\(1\)\(c\)](#) is still appropriate.
- (c) The relevant PICC must arrange for the transportation of initiates contemplated in paragraph (a).
- (8) A PICC may, on conditions as may be determined by the PICC, delegate any of the responsibilities, roles and functions contemplated in this section, except the responsibilities, roles and functions referred to in subsections (1)(b), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i), (3)(d), (4), (5), (6) and [section 41\(2\)](#), to any member of the PICC or a member of a technical support team as contemplated in [section 16](#).
- (9) For the purposes of subsection (1)(e) to (h), the PICC may consult any knowledgeable person.
- (10) (a) A PICC may, with due regard to the provisions of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 ([Act No. 3 of 2000](#)), determine the process to be followed when any alleged abuse of initiates is investigated as contemplated in [section 15\(1\)\(j\)](#) and such process must at least provide for—
- (i) the period within which a specific investigation must be concluded;
- (ii) the manner in which interviews must be conducted and recorded; and
- (iii) the manner in which evidence must be collected, including medical reports and photographic evidence.
- (b) A PICC may determine the format in which an investigative report must be prepared, including the minimum information to be included in such report and the manner in which any confidential information must be collected and reported on.
- (11) (a) If any of the persons referred to in subsection (2)(f) and (g) is substituted prior to the opening or during the holding of an initiation school, the principal of such school must inform the relevant PICC accordingly.
- (b) Any substitute contemplated in paragraph (a) must comply with the relevant requirements of this Act.
- (12) If, during any inspection or investigation contemplated in this section, a PICC becomes aware of any possible or alleged criminal conduct, the PICC must immediately report such conduct to the SAPS for investigation.

16. Technical support teams

- (1) (a) The PICC contemplated in [section 11\(1\)](#) may, after consultation with the head of each of the provincial government departments, traditional leadership councils or institutions referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (xi), establish a technical support team consisting of not more than two representatives each of any or all of—
- (i) the provincial department responsible for health;
- (ii) the provincial department responsible for traditional affairs;
- (iii) the provincial department responsible for basic education;

- (iv) the provincial department responsible for arts and culture;
 - (v) the provincial department responsible for social development;
 - (vi) the provincial department responsible for safety and security;
 - (vii) the relevant kingship or queenship councils, principal traditional councils or traditional councils;
 - (viii) the relevant metropolitan, district and local municipalities;
 - (ix) the emergency services within the particular area;
 - (x) the SAPS; and
 - (xi) any other interested body as identified by the PICC.
- (b) The PICC may, when necessary and after consultation with the head of each of the national government departments or institutions referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (vii), co-opt to the technical support team not more than two representatives each from any or all of—
- (i) the CRL Rights Commission;
 - (ii) the Department of Justice;
 - (iii) the Department of Women;
 - (iv) the Department of Health;
 - (v) the Department of Social Development;
 - (vi) the Department of Home Affairs; and
 - (vii) the NPA.
- (2) (a) The PICC contemplated in [section 11\(2\)](#) and (3) may, in consultation with the Premier, determine whether it is necessary to establish a technical support team.
- (b) If such a technical support team is to be established, the provisions of subsection (1) apply in so far as it is relevant in the particular province.
- (3) A technical support team must perform the functions delegated to it by the PICC, as contemplated in [section 15\(8\)](#).
- (4) A Premier may, after consultation with the MEC responsible for initiation and the MEC responsible for health in the relevant province, include a representative of the provincial department of health contemplated in subsection (1)(a)(i) as a member of the PICC.

17. Administrative and financial support

- (1) The administrative and financial support to a PICC and its technical support team, including the conditions and requirements relevant to such support, must be provided for by the provincial departments as determined by the Premier after consultation with the relevant MECs.
- (2) The heads of the provincial departments contemplated in subsection (1) must, after consultation with each other, designate officials from their respective departments to provide specified administrative support to the PICC or its technical support team for the period indicated in such designation.
- (3) The administrative support contemplated in subsection (2) must include secretariat support.

Chapter 3

Role-players

18. Government

- (1) (a) National and provincial departments and municipal councils may, in respect of initiation practices in general and initiation schools in particular, enter into partnerships with each other and with—
 - (i) the principal of an initiation school or principals of initiation schools jointly within the province; and
 - (ii) the kingship or queenship council, principal traditional council or traditional council in whose area of jurisdiction an initiation school is held or such councils jointly within the province.
 - (b) Any partnership contemplated in paragraph (a) must be in writing and—
 - (i) must, in addition to any other provisions, contain clear provisions on the responsibilities of each party and the termination of such partnership; and
 - (ii) may not bind any person, body or institution who is not a party to such partnership.
 - (c) The NIOC, in the case of a partnership where a national department is a party thereto, and a PICC, in the case of any other partnership, must monitor such partnership and may take the necessary steps to ensure the effective and efficient implementation or termination thereof.
- (2) (a) A metropolitan, district or local municipality may, upon request of the principal of a prospective initiation school, in relevant municipal plans or by any other means applicable within such municipality, and after consultation with a kingship or queenship council, principal traditional council or traditional council falling within the municipal area, if any, make provision for the designation of appropriate and accessible land for the purpose of conducting initiation schools.
 - (b) A metropolitan, district or local municipality may, subject to [section 21\(11\)](#), enter into a partnership or agreement with a principal for the provision of municipal services at the relevant initiation school.
- (3) (a) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* and after consultation with all Premiers, the National House, provincial houses and, for the purposes of subparagraph (iii), the Minister responsible for health, determine the fees to be paid—
 - (i) by any prospective initiate to a principal for the purposes of attending such a school;
 - (ii) by the principal to the PICC in respect of the registration of such school; and
 - (iii) by the parents or legal or customary guardian of an initiate to a medical practitioner for his or her services rendered during initiation.
 - (b) Before making a final determination of the fees, the Minister must by notice in the *Gazette*, publish the proposed fees for public comment.
 - (c) Fees determined in accordance with this subsection must be revised on advice and at the request of the NIOC after the NIOC has consulted with all PICCs.

19. Houses of traditional leaders

- (1) The National House and provincial houses must, in respect of initiation, promote—
 - (a) the customary practice and the legal obligations pertaining thereto;

- (b) compliance with Constitutional principles, the provisions of this Act and any other legal prescripts pertaining to customary initiation, including the relevant provisions of the Children's Act;
 - (c) good and safe practices; and
 - (d) accountability amongst all role-players.
- (2) The National House must, after consultation with the provincial houses and in any instance where a provincial house has not been established, after consultation with the Premier or any MEC designated by the Premier for this purpose, develop—
 - (a) criteria to be used for the purposes of the screening of principals, traditional surgeons, care-givers and traditional health practitioners as contemplated in [section 20\(2\)](#);
 - (b) the minimum requirements for the registration of traditional surgeons, subject to the provisions of [section 41\(3\)](#);
 - (c) educational material for the purposes of educating all role-players in initiation on the rights, responsibilities, roles and functions of such role-players and the rights of initiates; and
 - (d) acceptable standards relating to discipline at initiation schools.
- (3) The National House may, on request of the NIOC or any PICC and after consultation with the relevant role-players, develop a manual as contemplated in [section 15\(3\)\(a\)](#).

20. Traditional leaders

- (1) Traditional leaders are overall responsible for initiation practices taking place within the areas of jurisdiction of their kingship or queenship councils, principal traditional councils or traditional councils and must, in this regard—
 - (a) promote the customary practice amongst the traditional communities in the particular area;
 - (b) promote compliance with Constitutional principles, the provisions of this Act and any other legal prescripts pertaining to customary initiation, including the relevant provisions of the Children's Act;
 - (c) promote good and safe practices, with specific emphasis on the protection of the lives, health and safety of initiates;
 - (d) promote compliance with any code of conduct contemplated in [section 15\(3\)\(c\)](#);
 - (e) assist the NIOC or a PICC, upon their request, to perform their functions provided for in this Act; and
 - (f) conduct regular inspections at initiation schools within their areas and report any abuse of initiates and non-compliance with the provisions of this Act or any other relevant law to the relevant PICC.
- (2) The traditional leaders contemplated in subsection (1) must screen principals, traditional surgeons, care-givers and traditional health practitioners in accordance with the criteria developed by the National House in terms of [section 19\(2\)\(a\)](#) and submit a report to the relevant PICC, in the format as may be determined by such PICC—
 - (a) indicating whether a specific principal or care-giver meets the requirements provided for in this Act and is suitable to perform the duties of a principal or care-giver, as the case may be;
 - (b) indicating, subject to the provisions of [section 22\(1\)\(h\)](#), for which initiate or initiates each such care-giver will be responsible;
 - (c) containing details, other than the information contemplated in [section 15\(2\)\(g\)](#), in respect of a principal, traditional surgeon or care-giver as may be required by the relevant PICC; and

- (d) indicating whether a specific traditional surgeon—
 - (i) is registered;
 - (ii) meets the requirements of [section 23](#); and
 - (iii) is suitable to perform the duties of a traditional surgeon contemplated in this Act.
- (3) If, in respect of the functions contemplated in subsection (2)—
 - (a) any traditional leader is unable to perform such functions;
 - (b) a specific traditional leader is also the principal of an initiation school;
 - (c) there are no recognised traditional leaders in a particular province but initiation takes place within such province; or
 - (d) initiation takes place in an area where there are no traditional leaders,the PICC must assign such functions to any member of the PICC or its technical support team.

21. Principals and care-givers

- (1) Principals and care-givers have the responsibilities, roles and functions assigned to them by this Act and are subject to the screening contemplated in [section 20\(2\)](#).
- (2) Principals and care-givers must—
 - (a) have no history or criminal record related to the abuse of children, violent actions or conduct against any person or any substance abuse; and
 - (b) subject to the provisions of [section 29](#), instil discipline amongst the initiates under their guardianship.
- (3) Care-givers must provide the parent or, where applicable, the customary or legal guardian of the initiate with health reports within the timeframes to be agreed upon between such care-giver and the relevant parent or guardian.
- (4) In the case of male initiation practices where circumcision is part of the initiation process, the care-givers must, subject to subsection (2), be males who themselves have been subjected to initiation and circumcision and must—
 - (a) subject to subsection (5), take precautionary measures to ensure the speedy recovery of initiates after circumcision; and
 - (b) take care of the relevant initiate or initiates until the completion of the initiation practices.
- (5)
 - (a) Care-givers are responsible for the monitoring of initiates and must, if any initiate displays any symptoms of ill-health, serious injury, infection or excessive, recurring or continuous bleeding, whether as a result of circumcision or not, immediately inform the principal and the parents or legal or customary guardian of such initiate.
 - (b) Immediately upon being informed of any of the conditions referred to in paragraph (a) by the care-giver or by a traditional surgeon as contemplated in [section 23\(3\)\(a\)](#), the principal must arrange for the initiate to receive medical attention.
 - (c) If the principal is not available, the care-giver must immediately arrange for the initiate to receive medical attention.
- (6) In the case of female initiation practices the care-givers must, subject to subsection (2), be females who themselves have been subjected to initiation.
- (7) A principal must designate a specific area where sick initiates may be attended to, taking into account the provisions of [section 22\(4\)\(a\)](#).

- (8) A principal must ensure that all provisions of [section 28](#), with the exception of [section 28\(9\)\(b\)](#), (10) and (11) are complied with.
- (9) A principal must provide the relevant PICC with the information contemplated in [section 15\(2\)\(f\)](#) and (g).
- (10) A principal must, subject to [section 22\(1\)\(f\)](#), inform all role-players involved in initiation practices at the particular initiation school of any special needs of initiates who have disabilities, and must ensure that such needs are taken care of, including the provision of sign language practitioners and braille services where applicable.
- (11)
 - (a) For the purposes of a partnership or agreement contemplated in [section 18\(2\)\(b\)](#), a principal must engage the relevant municipality at least three months prior to the commencement of the specific initiation season.
 - (b) A principal is responsible for the payment of municipal services provided by a municipality at an initiation school.
 - (c) The relevant municipality may exempt a principal from the payment contemplated in paragraph (b) and such exemption must be stipulated in the partnership or agreement contemplated in [section 18\(2\)\(b\)](#).

22. Parents or legal or customary guardian

- (1) The parents or, where applicable, the legal or customary guardian of an initiate, must—
 - (a) decide, together with the child concerned and subject to the provisions of [section 28](#), whether such child should attend an initiation school or not;
 - (b) in the case where male circumcision forms part of the initiation process, decide together with the child whether he should be circumcised medically or traditionally or not at all;
 - (c) subject to subsection (2), obtain a certificate from a medical practitioner who is practicing within the province where the relevant initiation school is located, indicating whether a prospective initiate is fit to participate in the initiation practices and that he or she has no medical, physical or psychological condition that may cause complications during or after initiation;
 - (d) disclose to the relevant principal and care-giver whether the prospective initiate is on medication in order for the specific care-giver to administer such medication to such initiate;
 - (e) disclose to the relevant principal and care-giver whether the prospective initiate has any other health condition that may impact on such initiate's participation in any initiation practice;
 - (f) disclose to the relevant principal and care-giver whether the prospective initiate has any disability, including the special needs of such disabled initiate, and whether such disability may limit his or her participation in initiation activities;
 - (g) satisfy themselves that—
 - (i) the initiation school to be attended by the prospective initiate is registered with the relevant PICC in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and
 - (ii) the principal of the relevant initiation school, the care-giver who will be responsible for the prospective initiate, any relevant traditional health practitioner and, where applicable, the traditional surgeon who will be performing male circumcision, have been screened and found suitable in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and
 - (h) designate a care-giver for the prospective initiate, subject to the screening of care-givers as contemplated in [section 20\(2\)](#).

- (2) A certificate contemplated in subsection (1)(c), must—
 - (a) be obtained within 21 calendar days prior to the day on which an initiation school is to commence;
 - (b) specifically indicate whether the child has any bleeding or breathing disorder, congenital abnormalities or any disability; and
 - (c) be submitted to the principal of the particular initiation school and the relevant care-giver by the parents or legal or customary guardian of the initiate, as the case may be.
- (3) The parents or, where applicable, the legal or customary guardian of an initiate, must ensure that the academic education of an initiate, subject to the provisions of [section 27](#), is not compromised as a result of his or her attendance of an initiation school.
- (4) The parents or, where applicable, the legal or customary guardian of an initiate, have the right—
 - (a) to attend to such initiate who falls sick during initiation; and
 - (b) to remove such initiate from an initiation school in any instance where—
 - (i) the initiate requires medical attention;
 - (ii) the initiate requests to be removed from the initiation school;
 - (iii) the initiate is attending an initiation school without the necessary consent contemplated in [section 28](#);
 - (iv) the initiate is or has been subjected to any abuse at the school;
 - (v) a family emergency or natural disaster warrants such removal; or
 - (vi) such parents, legal or customary guardian are of the opinion that the relevant initiation school, the principal of such school or any traditional surgeon, traditional health practitioner or care-giver involved in any initiation practices at such initiation school does not meet or no longer meets the requirements of this Act.

23. Traditional surgeons

- (1) (a) A traditional surgeon may, subject to [section 2](#)(4) and (5), only participate in initiation practices if such surgeon—
 - (i) is registered; and
 - (ii) has been provided with all required consent forms contemplated in [section 28](#) and medical certificates contemplated in [section 22](#)(1)(c).
- (b) A traditional surgeon must, at all times during his or her participation in initiation practices, be in possession of the letter confirming his or her registration as contemplated in [section 41](#)(2)(b).
- (2) In the case of initiation where male circumcision forms part of the initiation process—
 - (a) a registered male traditional surgeon may only perform such circumcision under the conditions provided for in [section 28](#)(6) and subject to the provisions of sections [22](#)(1)(c) and [27](#) and subsection (1)(a)(ii) of this section;
 - (b) the traditional surgeon must observe due care and diligence, and maintain appropriate health and hygienic standards as provided for in the General Regulations Regarding Children and as may be prescribed in terms of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act; and
 - (c) the traditional surgeon is, together with the relevant care-giver as contemplated in [section 21](#)(4)(b) and subject to subsection (3), responsible for the treatment and care of the initiates

during the circumcision process and any treatment that may be required following the circumcision.

- (3) (a) In any instance where any initiate displays any symptoms of ill-health, serious injury, infection or excessive, recurring or continuous bleeding, whether as a result of circumcision or not, and the relevant care-giver is not available, the traditional surgeon must inform the principal and the parents or legal or customary guardian of such initiate as contemplated in [section 21\(5\)\(a\)](#).
- (b) If neither the principal nor the care-giver is available, the traditional surgeon must immediately arrange for the initiate to receive medical attention as contemplated in [section 21\(5\)\(b\)](#).

24. Medical practitioners

- (1) A male medical practitioner may—
 - (a) subject to [section 28\(6\)](#), perform male circumcisions or supervise the performance of such circumcisions;
 - (b) only perform male circumcisions or supervise the performance of such circumcisions if he has been provided with all required consent forms contemplated in [section 28](#); and
 - (c) if he deems it necessary for medical reasons based on the medical certificate contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(c\)](#), refer an initiate to a hospital for the purposes of circumcision.
- (2) (a) For the purposes of subsection (1), the parents or legal or customary guardian of an initiate, as the case may be, may, after consultation with the principal of the particular initiation school, invite a male medical practitioner to perform circumcision on the relevant male initiate or to supervise the performance of such circumcision as contemplated in [section 28\(6\)](#) within the confines of the customs and traditions of the particular community.
- (b) If the parents or legal or customary guardian does not invite a medical practitioner as contemplated in paragraph (a), the principal of the particular initiation school must arrange for a medical practitioner to perform circumcision or supervise the performance of such circumcision as contemplated in [section 28\(6\)](#).
- (3) For the purposes of issuing the certificate contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(c\)](#), a medical practitioner must take into account any guidelines as may be developed in terms of [section 9\(1\)\(b\)\(vii\)](#).

25. South African Police Service and National Prosecuting Authority

- (1) (a) The SAPS must, upon receipt of a report contemplated in [section 15\(12\)](#) investigate the matter and after investigation, submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether to prosecute or not.
- (b) The SAPS must, for the purpose of [section 15\(6\)\(b\)](#) also investigate whether the initiates who were attending the non-registered initiation school could be regarded as abducted or kidnapped, and submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether anyone should be prosecuted for abduction or kidnapping.
- (2) (a) The SAPS must, upon receipt of a report contemplated in sections [9\(2\)\(a\)](#) and [15\(6\)\(a\)](#), forthwith comply with the provisions of section 110(4) of the Children's Act, investigate the matter and after investigation, submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether to prosecute or not.
- (b) Whenever the death of an initiate is reported to the SAPS in accordance with the provisions of [section 31](#), the SAPS must forthwith investigate such death and after investigation, submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether to prosecute or not.
- (c) If any investigation conducted by the SAPS as contemplated in paragraphs (a) and (b) *prima facie* reveals that the abuse or the death of an initiate was as a result of negligence or

intention by any person involved in initiation at the particular initiation school, the PICC must close that initiation school.

- (3) If any initiate is forced to attend an initiation school without complying with all the consent requirements contemplated in [section 28](#), the SAPS must investigate whether such initiate could be regarded as abducted or kidnapped, and submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether anyone should be prosecuted for abduction, kidnapping or any other applicable offence.
- (4) If it is reported to the SAPS that any sacred or secret initiation activity as contemplated in the proviso to [section 15\(1\)\(i\)](#) may be illegal, the SAPS must investigate such activity and submit the docket to the NPA for a decision whether, subject to [section 33\(9\)](#), any person must be prosecuted or not.
- (5) No person may interfere with the exercising of any duty by a member of the SAPS or NPA in terms of this Act on any grounds, including customary grounds.

Chapter 4

Initiation schools

26. Registration

- (1)
 - (a) An initiation school must be registered in accordance with the provisions of [section 15\(1\)\(c\)](#) and must meet the criteria and requirements for registration as contemplated in [section 15\(1\)\(g\)](#).
 - (b) The provisions of [section 15\(6\)](#) apply to the closing and deregistration of an initiation school.
- (2) An initiation school must be registered at least three months prior to the commencement of an initiation season and such registration is valid only for a specific initiation season indicated on the registration certificate.
- (3)
 - (a) A PICC must, prior to the commencement of an initiation season and by notice in the relevant *Provincial Gazette* and any local newspaper circulating in any area where initiation is practiced, publish a list, in the format as may be determined by the PICC, containing details of all registered initiation schools.
 - (b) A PICC must, by notice in the relevant *Provincial Gazette* and any local newspaper circulating in any area where initiation is practiced, publish a list, in the format as may be determined by the PICC, containing details of all initiation schools that have been deregistered or closed and the reasons for such deregistration or closure.
- (4)
 - (a) In instances where an initiation school is to be held on land within the area of jurisdiction of a traditional council, including state land which is lawfully occupied by a traditional community in terms of any relevant legislation, the principal of such school must obtain written approval from the traditional council to use the specific land for the purposes of holding such initiation school.
 - (b) In instances where an initiation school is to be held outside the area of jurisdiction of a traditional council, the principal of such school must—
 - (i) in the case of privately-owned land, obtain written approval from the owner or lawful occupier of such land; or
 - (ii) in the case of state land other than state land contemplated in paragraph (a), obtain written approval from the relevant organ of state responsible for the management of such state land,to hold such initiation school on such privately-owned or state land, as the case may be.

27. Initiation seasons

- (1) Initiation seasons must be held during the relevant provincial school holidays and may not interfere or overlap with official school terms.
- (2) If an initiation school commences before a school holiday or continues beyond a school holiday, or is held outside the period for initiation submitted to the PICC as part of the application process, the relevant principal is, in addition to the provisions of [section 33\(4\)](#), also liable to suspension from holding initiation schools for a period as may be determined by the PICC.
- (3)
 - (a) If the principal is suspended as contemplated in subsection (2), the relevant PICC must, subject to subsection (1), replace such suspended principal with a person who meets the requirements of this Act and may, in appointing the replacement principal, give preference to a principal of another initiation school being held in the relevant area.
 - (b) Any initiation school that—
 - (i) commences prior to the relevant provincial school holidays as contemplated in subsection (2), must be closed and may be reopened once the school holidays commences; or
 - (ii) continues beyond the relevant school holiday, must forthwith be closed.
- (4) The provisions of this section do not apply to an initiation school that is attended exclusively by initiates who have already completed secondary education.

28. Consent, prohibitions, age and circumcision

- (1)
 - (a) Initiation is a voluntary customary practice and no person may be forced or coerced into attending any initiation school or undergo any initiation practices.
 - (b) No person may attend an initiation school unless all the relevant consent requirements of this section have been complied with and a medical certificate contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(c\)](#) has been issued in respect of such person.
 - (c) Any initiate who is 18 or older, is responsible for obtaining the medical certificate contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(c\)](#) and (2), and must submit such certificate to the relevant principal and care-giver.
- (2) Subject to [section 37\(3\)](#) and (4), no person under the age of 16 may attend an initiation school for the purposes of being initiated.
- (3)
 - (a) A child between the ages of 16 and 18 may not attend an initiation school for the purposes of being initiated, unless such child and his or her parents or customary or legal guardian, as the case may be, give written consent for him or her to undergo initiation.
 - (b) A person who is 18 or older may not attend an initiation school for the purposes of being initiated, unless such person gives written consent to undergo initiation.
 - (c) All written consents referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) must be submitted to the principal of the particular initiation school prior to the commencement of such school, and such principal must submit copies thereof to the relevant PICC.
- (4) In terms of section 12(3) of the Children's Act, genital mutilation or circumcision of female children is prohibited and therefore the consent contemplated in this section may not include consent to such mutilation or circumcision and may not form part of any initiation practice.
- (5)
 - (a) In terms of section 12(4) of the Children's Act, virginity testing of children under the age of 16 is prohibited and therefore the consent contemplated in this section may not include consent to such virginity testing in the case of children under the age of 16.

- (b) Virginitv testing of children who are between the ages of 16 and 18 is subject to the provisions of section 12(5), (6) and (7) of the Children's Act and regulations 3 and 4 of the General Regulations Regarding Children, and may only form part of an initiation process if the provisions of that section and regulations have been complied with.
 - (c) Virginitv testing of any person who is 18 or older may only be performed as part of an initiation process if such person has given written consent for such virginitv testing.
 - (d) No child or any other person may be forced or coerced to undergo virginitv testing as part of an initiation process.
- (6)
- (a) In terms of section 12(8) of the Children's Act the circumcision of male children under the age of 16 is prohibited except if such circumcision is performed for religious or medical purposes and therefore the consent contemplated in this section may not, in the case of male children under the age of 16, include consent to any circumcision other than circumcision that is allowed in terms of the said [section 12](#)(8).
 - (b) The circumcision of male children between the ages of 16 and 18 is subject to the provisions of section 12(9) and (10) of the Children's Act and regulations 5 and 6 of the General Regulations Regarding Children, and may only form part of an initiation process if the provisions of that section and regulations have been complied with: Provided that in addition to the consent required by section 12(9)(a) of the Children's Act, the consent referred to in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section must include consent to be circumcised where such circumcision forms part of the initiation process.
 - (c) The circumcision of male initiates who are 18 or older is subject to paragraph (d)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, regulation 5(2) of the General Regulations Regarding Children and any conditions as may be prescribed under section 43(3)(a) of the National Health Act, and may only form part of the initiation process if the initiate gives written consent to be circumcised.
 - (d) The circumcision of male initiates contemplated in paragraph (b) is subject to regulations 5 and 6 of the General Regulations Regarding Children and any conditions as may be prescribed under section 43(3)(a) of the National Health Act and may, subject to sections [23](#) and [24](#), only be performed by—
 - (i) a registered medical practitioner; or
 - (ii) a registered traditional surgeon—
 - (aa) who is also a registered medical practitioner; or
 - (bb) under the supervision of a registered medical practitioner if such traditional surgeon is not a registered medical practitioner.
- (7) Except for male circumcision in accordance with the provisions of subsection (6), no initiate may be subjected to any physical harmful activities during initiation, including the cutting of the skin or any other manner of permanent marking the skin, and therefore the consent contemplated in this section may not include consent to such physical harmful activities.
- (8) If any written consent is lawfully given for virginitv testing or male circumcision, such consent must be submitted to the principal of the particular initiation school prior to the commencement of such school and such principal must submit copies thereof to the relevant PICC, care-giver, medical practitioner, traditional surgeon, traditional health practitioner and the person who performs a virginitv test.
- (9)
- (a) If any consent or other forms as contemplated in this section or any other provision of this Act are prescribed in terms of the Children's Act or the General Regulations Regarding Children, such prescribed forms must be used for the purposes of this Act.
 - (b) If any consent or other forms have not been prescribed as contemplated in paragraph (a), a PICC may, subject to [section 15](#)(4), develop appropriate forms.

- (10) No consent may be given by any initiate or any other person contemplated in subsection (3)(a) and (b), for such an initiate to attend a non-registered initiation school.

29. Discipline and teachings

- (1) (a) The principal of an initiation school and the relevant care-givers must ensure discipline amongst initiates at all times and must ensure that the teachings at such initiation school discourage misconduct.
- (b) If an initiate is guilty of misconduct, the principal must, subject to the provisions of [section 28\(7\)](#), take corrective steps in accordance with the customs of the particular community.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b), an initiate may under no circumstances be abused or assaulted under the guise of discipline.
- (2) Any discipline imposed at an initiation school is subject to the standards contemplated in [section 19\(2\)\(d\)](#).
- (3) (a) Initiation teachings may include cultural and religious elements and should be aimed at teaching the initiates about their ancestry, belief systems, the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood, family values, national identity, nation building and social cohesion.
- (b) Initiation teachings must be included in the curriculum to be submitted to a PICC as contemplated in [section 15\(1\)\(i\)](#).
- (c) Initiation teachings may not be prejudicial, biased or discriminatory.

30. Water, sanitation, food, health care, liquor and drugs

- (1) The principal of an initiation school and the relevant care-givers, must, subject to any criteria as may be developed in terms of [section 15\(1\)\(g\)](#), ensure that initiates at all times have access to clean water, appropriate sanitation facilities and are provided with food.
- (2) (a) The food referred to in subsection (1) must be provided by the parents or families of initiates or, where applicable, by the legal or customary guardians.
- (b) In any instance where the parents, family or legal or customary guardians are not in a position to provide such food, such parents, family or legal or customary guardians must inform the relevant principal and he or she may provide reasonable assistance in respect of the provisioning of food to the relevant initiates.
- (3) A principal must, notwithstanding sections [21\(4\)\(b\)](#) and [23\(2\)\(c\)](#), ensure that initiates have access to health care facilities whenever the need arises, taking into account any requirements as may be contained in a manual contemplated in [section 15\(3\)\(a\)](#).
- (4) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), no initiate or any person involved in initiation may, at an initiation school, use, possess, deal in, supply or manufacture any liquor as defined in section 1 of the Liquor Act.
- (b) In any instance where a moderate quantity of liquor is to be supplied for purposes of a religious sacrament which forms part of an initiation practice, it may only be provided to initiates to whom such sacrament applies and only in the presence and under the supervision of any of the persons referred to in section 10(2) of the Liquor Act.
- (5) No initiate or any person involved in initiation may, at an initiation school, use, possess, deal in, supply or manufacture any drug as contemplated in the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act.

31. Death of initiate

- (1) In the event that an initiate dies while attending an initiation school, the principal of such school must immediately inform—
 - (a) the parents or legal or customary guardian of such initiate, as the case may be;
 - (b) the SAPS;
 - (c) the relevant PICC;
 - (d) the relevant traditional surgeon and, where applicable, medical practitioner; and
 - (e) where applicable, the relevant senior traditional leader.
- (2) Upon being informed of the death of an initiate, the PICC—
 - (a) may, subject to subsection (3), assist the parents or legal or customary guardian of the initiate, as the case may be, with the funeral arrangements, taking into account any relevant customs; and
 - (b) must arrange for a qualified counsellor, who has undergone initiation himself or herself, to provide counselling to the remaining initiates and, if requested by them, to the parents or legal or customary guardian of the deceased initiate.
- (3) The assistance provided by a PICC as contemplated in subsection (2)(a) may not include any financial contribution.

Chapter 5 General provisions

32. Allowances and expenditure

- (1) A member of the NIOC referred to in [section 4\(1\)\(j\)](#) who is not a government official, an office bearer as referred to in section 1 of the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office-bearers Act, 1997 ([Act No. 92 of 1997](#)) or a member of any institution referred to in Chapter 9 of the [Constitution](#), may receive an allowance as may be determined by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette* after consultation with the Minister responsible for finance.
- (2) The NIOC is responsible for the travel and accommodation expenditure related to the work of the NIOC of any member referred to in [section 4\(1\)\(j\)](#), except if such a member is a government official.

33. Offences

- (1) Any person who—
 - (a) holds a non-registered initiation school or is involved in any initiation practices at such non-registered initiation school;
 - (b) accepts at any initiation school, whether registered or not, an initiate who is under the age of 16; or
 - (c) accepts an initiate at an initiation school or is involved in any initiation practices at such initiation school without having received the required medical certificate or consent contemplated in [section 28\(1\)](#) and (3),is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.
- (2) A person who forces any person to attend an initiation school or who forges any consent or consent form as contemplated in [section 28](#) or obtains such consent by means of duress, is guilty of an

offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

- (3) Any traditional surgeon who is not registered, whether in accordance with the provisions of section 41 of this Act or in terms of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, but performs duties at an initiation school, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both a fine and such imprisonment, or to any relevant fine or imprisonment as may be provided for in terms of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act.

- (4) Any—

(a) principal, care-giver, traditional health practitioner or, subject to subsection (3), traditional surgeon, including any substitute contemplated in [section 15\(11\)](#), who does not meet any requirements provided for in this Act or determined in terms of this Act, or falsely pretends to meet such requirements; or

(b) principal who contravenes [section 27\(2\)](#),

is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

- (5) Any person who is involved in any initiation practices or any of the structures provided for in this Act and fails to disclose the information referred to in [section 2\(5\)\(a\)](#) and (b), is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

- (6) Any alleged offences relating to—

(a) the death of an initiate;

(b) the abduction or kidnapping of an initiate;

(c) male or female circumcision, genital mutilation or virginity testing as part of initiation practices;

(d) the abuse of initiates;

(e) the use, possession, supply or manufacturing of liquor or drugs or dealing in liquor or drugs by an initiate or any other person involved in initiation; or

(f) the involvement of a medical practitioner at an initiation school,

must be dealt with in terms of the offence clauses provided for in the Criminal Procedure Act, the Children's Act, the Health Professions Act, the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act or the Liquor Act, as the case may be.

- (7) Subject to subsection (6), if any principal, care-giver or traditional surgeon does not arrange medical attention for an initiate as contemplated in [section 21\(5\)](#) or [23\(3\)](#), such principal, care-giver or traditional surgeon is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

- (8) If—

(a) any principal does not comply with the provisions of [section 21\(9\)](#) and (10), [section 26\(4\)](#) or [section 29\(3\)\(c\)](#);

(b) any parents or legal or customary guardian of an initiate fails to disclose the information contemplated in [section 22\(1\)\(d\)](#), (e) or (f); or

(c) any traditional surgeon fails to comply with the provisions of [section 23\(1\)\(b\)](#),

such principal, parents, legal or customary guardian, or traditional surgeon, as the case may be, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

- (9) If any initiation activity was declared not to be illegal as contemplated in the proviso to [section 15\(1\)\(i\)](#), but found to be illegal following the investigation by the SAPS, the principal who made the declaration and any other person who authorised, arranged or supervised such illegal activity may be prosecuted in terms of the provisions of the relevant law.
- (10) A PICC must, in respect of any principal, care-giver, traditional surgeon or any other person involved in initiation who has been convicted of an offence as contemplated in this section, enter the details of such conviction in the database referred to in [section 15\(2\)](#).

34. Appeals

- (1) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of a traditional council or a PICC may lodge an appeal to the relevant Premier.
- (2) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of the NIOC may lodge an appeal to the Minister.
- (3) An appeal contemplated in subsections (1) and (2) must be lodged—
 - (a) within 30 calendar days after the aggrieved person has been informed of the specific decision; and
 - (b) in the manner as may be prescribed by the relevant Premier or the Minister, as the case may be.
- (4) The relevant Premier or the Minister, as the case may be—
 - (a) may dismiss the appeal against a decision of a traditional council, a PICC or the NIOC, as the case may be, and confirm the relevant decision; or
 - (b) may uphold an appeal and set aside or vary the specific decision, wholly or in part; and
 - (c) must, in writing, inform the person who lodged the appeal and the relevant traditional council, the relevant PICC or the NIOC, as the case may be, of his or her decision and the reasons for such decision.
- (5) Any appeal lodged in terms of this section must be dealt with by the relevant Premier or the Minister, as the case may be, within 30 calendar days from the date on which the appeal was lodged.

35. Regulations

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, make regulations regarding—
 - (a) any matter that must or may be prescribed in terms of this Act;
 - (b) in respect of initiation, any matter relating to the responsibilities, roles and functions of—
 - (i) the NIOC;
 - (ii) a PICC;
 - (iii) any sphere of government, houses of traditional leaders, traditional leaders, principals, care-givers, parents or legal or customary guardians of initiates; or
 - (iv) traditional surgeons or traditional health practitioners: Provided that regulations in respect of traditional surgeons or traditional health practitioners may not be in contradiction with the provisions of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act;
 - (c) any matter relating to initiation schools; and
 - (d) any ancillary or administrative matter that is necessary to prescribe for the proper implementation or administration of this Act.

- (2) Before any regulations are made under subsection (1), the Minister must—
 - (a) in respect of any regulations as contemplated in subsection (1), consult the Premiers of all provinces, the National House and all provincial houses;
 - (b) in respect of regulations as contemplated in subsection (1)(b)(iv), consult the Minister responsible for health; and
 - (c) publish any draft regulations in the *Gazette* for public comment.
- (3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), a Premier may, by notice in the *Provincial Gazette*, make regulations regarding—
 - (a) in respect of initiation, the responsibilities, roles and functions of—
 - (i) the relevant PICC;
 - (ii) the traditional leaders, principals and care-givers involved in initiation within the province; and
 - (iii) the parents or legal or customary guardians of initiates attending initiation schools within the province; and
 - (b) any matter relating to initiation schools within the province.
- (4) Before any regulations are made under subsection (3), the Premier must—
 - (a) consult the MEC responsible for initiation in the province, the MEC responsible for health in the province, the provincial house, the PICC and organised local government within the province; and
 - (b) publish the draft regulations in the *Provincial Gazette* for public comment.
- (5) Regulations made by a Premier under subsection (3) may not be inconsistent with any provisions of this Act or any regulations made by the Minister under subsection (1).
- (6) Any regulations made by the Minister or a Premier under this section must be tabled in Parliament or the relevant provincial legislature, as the case may be, for noting.

36. Monitoring

- (1) The Department may monitor the implementation of this Act and any regulations made in terms of this Act, and may submit reports in this regard and make recommendations on such implementation to the Minister, the Premiers and the NIOC or any PICC.
- (2) The Minister may, after having received a report or recommendations contemplated in subsection (1) and after consultation with any relevant Premier, the NIOC or any relevant PICC, take the necessary steps to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented.
- (3)
 - (a) The Department responsible for initiation within a province may, together with any other department designated by the Premier, monitor the implementation of this Act and any regulations made in terms of this Act within such province, and may submit reports in this regard and make recommendations on such implementation to the Premier, any relevant MEC and the relevant PICC.
 - (b) Upon receipt of a report contemplated in paragraph (a), the Premier of a province may, after consultation with the Minister, take the necessary steps to ensure that the provisions of this Act and any regulations made in terms of this Act are implemented within the province.

37. Provincial peculiarities

- (1) To accommodate any specific provincial area or community peculiarities, a Premier may, after consultation with the Minister, any relevant MEC, the provincial house and the PICC, by notice in

the *Provincial Gazette* determine that the provisions of this Act relating to principals, care-givers or traditional surgeons apply to and must be complied with by the persons or bodies indicated in such notice and to the extent specified in such notice.

- (2) A Premier must inform the Minister, any relevant MEC, the NIOC, the provincial house and the PICC of any determination made in terms of subsection (1).
- (3) Provincial legislation may determine a higher minimum age than the minimum age provided for in sections [2\(4\)](#) and [28\(2\)](#).
- (4) In the absence of provincial legislation contemplated in subsection (3), a Premier may, after consultation with the Minister, any relevant MEC, the provincial house and the PICC, by notice in the *Provincial Gazette* determine a higher minimum age than the minimum age provided for in sections [2\(4\)](#) and [28\(2\)](#).

38. Provincial legislation providing for a PICC

- (1) If, at the commencement of this Act, any provincial legislation already makes provision for a PICC as contemplated in [section 11](#), for a technical support team as contemplated in [section 16](#) or a similar structure, and for other initiation structures, such PICC, technical support team or similar structure and other initiation structures, irrespective of whether their composition in terms of the provincial legislation corresponds with the relevant provisions of [section 11](#) or [16](#) of this Act, but subject to subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), continue to exist and function in terms of such provincial legislation.
- (2)
 - (a) If any of the responsibilities, roles or functions of a PICC as provided for in [section 15](#) or any other section of this Act is not included in the provincial legislation referred to in subsection (1), such responsibilities, roles and functions must, at the commencement of this Act, be deemed as having been assigned to the PICC established in terms of the provincial legislation and such PICC may, in writing and subject to [section 15\(8\)](#), delegate such responsibilities, roles and functions to any of the structures provided for in the provincial legislation.
 - (b) If any of the responsibilities, roles or functions provided for in this Act in respect of any role-player contemplated in Chapter 3 of this Act is not included in the provincial legislation referred to in subsection (1), such responsibilities, roles and functions must, at the commencement of this Act, be deemed as having been assigned to such role-player if such role-player has been provided for in the provincial legislation or to any corresponding role-player provided for in the provincial legislation.
- (3) The provisions of [section 39\(2\)\(c\)](#), (d), (e) and (f), (3) and (4) apply with the necessary changes to any delegation made under subsection (2)(a).
- (4) Any provision of this Act that is not provided for in the provincial legislation referred to in subsection (1), must apply in the relevant province in addition to the provisions of such provincial legislation.
- (5) In the event of any conflict between a provision of the provincial legislation referred to in subsection (1) and sections [26](#), [27](#), [28](#) and [33](#) of this Act, the relevant provisions of this Act prevail.

39. Local initiation structures and municipalities

- (1)
 - (a) In addition to the structures provided for in this Act, provincial legislation may provide for the establishment of local initiation structures to perform the responsibilities, roles and functions as provided for in such provincial legislation or as may be delegated to such structures in terms of subsection (2).
 - (b) The provisions of [section 17](#) apply with the necessary changes in respect of the administrative and financial support to be provided to the local initiation structures in so far

- as such support is not provided for in the provincial legislation contemplated in paragraph (a).
- (2) (a) A PICC may, subject to paragraph (b) and any conditions as the PICC may determine, in writing, delegate any of its responsibilities, roles and functions to any local initiation structure contemplated in subsection (1)(a).
- (b) For the purposes of a delegation contemplated in paragraph (a), the provisions of sections [15\(8\)](#) and [20\(3\)](#) apply with the necessary changes.
- (c) The delegation in terms of paragraph (a) does not prevent the exercise of the relevant responsibility, role or function by the PICC: Provided that the PICC must give prior notice of its intention to exercise the responsibility, role or function to the relevant local initiation structure.
- (d) A PICC may at any time, in writing, withdraw or amend a delegation.
- (e) A local initiation structure to which a responsibility, role or function is delegated, may not further delegate it.
- (f) Notice must be given in the *Provincial Gazette* of any responsibility, role or function delegated in terms of this subsection.
- (3) A PICC must monitor the execution of any delegated responsibilities, roles and functions contemplated in subsection (2) and submit reports in this regard to the department responsible for initiation in the province which reports must be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of [section 36\(3\)](#).
- (4) A PICC must inform the Premier, any relevant MEC, the provincial house, the NIOC and organised local government within the province of any delegation made in terms of subsection (2).
- (5) (a) In the absence of provincial legislation contemplated in subsection (1)(a), a PICC may, after consultation with the Premier, any relevant MEC, the provincial house and organised local government within the province, in writing and subject to any conditions as the PICC may determine, delegate any of the responsibilities, roles or functions contemplated in subsection (2)(a) to a specific metropolitan, district or local municipality or to such municipalities in general within the province: Provided that such a municipality must, prior to a delegation being made, agree thereto.
- (b) The delegation contemplated in paragraph (a) may be included in an implementation protocol contemplated in section 35 of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 ([Act No. 13 of 2005](#)).
- (c) Subsections (2)(b) to (f), (3) and (4) apply with the necessary changes to any delegation made under paragraph (a).
- (d) The delegation or implementation protocol contemplated in paragraphs (a) and (b), must include the provision of financial support to the relevant municipality by the provincial departments as contemplated in [section 17\(1\)](#).
- (6) In the event of any conflict between a provision of the provincial legislation referred to in subsection (1)(a) and any provision of this Act, the relevant provision of this Act prevails.

40. Implementation of Act

- (1) The NIOC and a PICC, excluding a PICC contemplated in [section 38](#), must be established within three months from the date of commencement of this Act.
- (2) The criteria and process required in terms of [section 15\(1\)\(g\)](#) and (h) respectively, must be developed by a PICC within three months from the date of establishment of such PICC or, in the case of a PICC contemplated in [section 38](#), within three months from the date of commencement of this Act.

41. Interim arrangements

- (1) A traditional surgeon must apply to the relevant PICC for registration.
- (2) A PICC must, taking into account the requirements developed by the National House contemplated in [section 19\(2\)\(b\)](#),—
 - (a) receive and consider an application for the registration of a traditional surgeon;
 - (b) register any traditional surgeon whose application has been approved and issue a letter confirming such registration to the traditional surgeon; and
 - (c) keep a register of all registered traditional surgeons.
- (3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) only apply until the provisions of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act which regulate the registration of traditional surgeons come into operation.
- (4)
 - (a) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* and after consultation with all Premiers, the National House, provincial houses and the Minister responsible for health, determine the fees to be paid, subject to subsection (5)—
 - (i) by a traditional surgeon to the PICC, in respect of the registration of such a surgeon; and
 - (ii) to a traditional surgeon for his or her services rendered during initiation.
 - (b) Before making a final determination of the fees, the Minister must, by notice in the *Gazette*, publish the proposed fees for public comment.
 - (c) Fees determined in accordance with this subsection must be revised on advice and at the request of the NIOC, after the NIOC has consulted with all PICCs.
- (5) The provisions of subsection (4) only apply until such time as fees are determined or prescribed in terms of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act.

42. Short title and commencement

This Act is called the Customary Initiation Act, 2021, and takes effect on a date determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.