



**Western Cape  
Government**

Cultural Affairs and Sport

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# **Western Cape Initiation Programme**

## Information Booklet

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport regards as binding the legislative mandate which is the protection, promotion and preservation of Arts, Culture and Heritage in the Province.

The Western Cape initiation project is led and driven by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, community structures, and the initiation custodians supported by the Western Cape Initiation Interdepartmental Task Team.

## **The Goal of the Department on Initiation**

To create a safer and enabling environment for the effective rite of passage to responsible adulthood and citizenship.

## **Initiation Forums**

In order to be connected with communities the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport has established bodies called initiation forums representing communities practicing initiation as a rite of passage in the Western Cape. Therefore Initiation Forums are the initial points of contact and a requirement for communities who observe and practice initiation in the Province.

## **Steps to follow when you want to take your son for initiation in the Western Cape**

1. Each year there are two initiation seasons, winter (May / June / July) and summer (November / December / January). Parents are required to send their sons to initiation schools within the specified times.
2. The family must have wholly agreed that the boy goes for initiation.
3. Properly prepare your son in respect of the initiation procedure and pay attention to indigenous knowledge (it is important that your son understand the reasons why he should undergo initiation).
4. Go and see the local initiation forum to hear what you need to prepare to take your son for initiation.
5. Take your son to the doctor for medical examination to check whether he is fit to undergo the ritual, two

months beforehand. Preferable boys must be taken to public clinics at least two times within the two months (window period) The medical doctor must issue you a certificate of fitness that you will produce to the initiation forum and the surgeon (iNgcibi). Please note, no circumcision procedure shall take place without this certificate.

6. Ask the respective initiation forum to recommend an experienced (iNgcibi) and the carer (iKhankatha) or introduce your preferred one to the initiation forum. You must make sure that your iNgcibi and iKhankatha meet and exchange points of clarity and procedures to each other.
7. Initiate's food must always come from home. Food from home must just be enough to avoid surplus, which may cause flies, in the case of AmaXhosa. AmaHlubi and Basotho cook food for the initiates in the mountains. **DO NOT GIVE MONEY TO YOUR INITIATE. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND ANY OTHER RELATED SUBSTANCES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON THE INITIATION SITE.**
8. The father figure in the family must visit the initiate (uMkhwetha) regularly to see to it that iKhankatha is carrying out his duties as expected and to monitor the healing progress.



*First-aid training is provided to Initiation Cares by DCAS*



*Feedback sessions at forums*

9. **BE PROUD. BE THERE FOR YOUR SON TILL THE END. DON'T LEAVE HIM IN THE HANDS OF STRANGERS. LET YOUR SON LEAVE THE INITIATION SCHOOL ONLY WHEN HE IS READY!!!**

For further advice contact your nearest initiation forum as listed below or contact the project manager  
Mr Clement Williams (Sukwini) at Tel: 021 483 9717 or Cell 073 084 0312 or  
E-mail [Clement.Williams@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Clement.Williams@westerncape.gov.za)

### Contact Details Of Chairpersons Of The Initiation Forums

No.	Initiation Forum	Chairpersons	Contact Number	Initiation Site
1	Ashton	Mr David Mrhwebi Mr Michael Mjenxane	0605210690/0761157934 0738284213	Zolani initiation site Langeberg Mountain initiation site
2	Beaufort West	Mr Thabo Foloti Mr Coenraad Koeberg Mr Thamsanqa Ndluzela	072903 8940 0738951149 0833870595	Ezimfeneni initiation site Gwana initiation site Droërivier Initiation site
3	Bonnievale	Mr Pawule Mr Richard Mhlambeli	0787827173 0790542477	Mountainview initiation site
4	Ceres	Mr Mpondwana Mr Phidiso Lethunya	0793294563 0838793642	Gulf Estate initiation site Mitchell's Pass initiation site

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No.	Initiation Forum	Chairpersons	Contact Number	Initiation Site
5	De Doorns	Mr Motseki Mr Mongezi Thotho	0722109447 0842610993/ 0638010635	Kloof 1 initiation site Kloof 2 initiation site
6	Delft	Mr Vulithuba Toto Nongwe Mr Ernest Ntlahla	0634913164 0782326432	Delft initiation site
7	Driftsands	Mr Mandlenkosi Memeza Mr Manelisi Swelindawo	0786273538 0655618519	Driftsands initiation site
8	George	Mr Mzwandile Gingcana Mr Ntsikelelo Mqhokrwana	0717736565 0785552355	Phelandaba / Zone 9/ Ramaphosa/ Old Brick / LTA/ Lawaai kamp initiation sites
9	Grabouw	Mr David Lekena	0728831443	Grabouw initiation site
10	Hazeldene	Mr Prince Joko	0848687970	Hazeldene
10	Heidelberg	Mr Johannes Mduma Mr Wilson Mfundisi	0784017732 0784270892	Kairos initiation site
11	Hermanus	Mr Thamsanqa Poni Mr Neo Ponoane	0727396703 0844694064	Zwelihle initiation site Hemel-en-Aarde initiation site
12	Khayamandi	Mr Isaac Monaheng Mr Luvuyo Swartbooi	0833380980 0728105423	Khayamandi / Idas Valley initiation sites
13	Khayelitsha	Chief Thembelani Mtotywa Chief Mbombi Mazinyo	0788769952/ 0796754525 0731802489	Mandalay / Lookout Hill / Dontsana initiation sites
14	Knysna	Mr Mlungisi Blaai Mr Justice Xhonti	078425 4722 0788623681	Damsebos initiation site Old Abattoir initiation site

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No.	Initiation Forum	Chairpersons	Contact Number	Initiation Site
15	Laingville (St. Helena Bay)	Mr Themba Xhalisile Mr George Magogotya	0837132957 0799337873	Laingville initiation site
16	Langa (Embo)	Mr C Katangana Mr Monde Mqingwana	0722326234 0828607359	Langa initiation site
17	Lwandle	Mr Fumbata Sidwell Majikijela Mr Lolile John Oliphant	0838814485 0784061138	Sir Lowry's Pass mountain initiation site
18	Mbekweni	Mr Phathekile Hans Mr Goodman Mtwebana	0734666654 0783235256	Mbekweni initiation site
19	Mfuleni	Mr Charlton Rayi Mr Meken Tshalisi	0786513324 0739209083	Mfuleni initiation site
20	Mossel Bay	Mr Mgcineni Dumezweni Mr Andile Tutela	0732235291 0835068149	KwaNonkqaba/ Asla / Bokwe initiation sites
21	Murraysburg	Mr Mthetheli Mckenzie Nkosikho Klaas Mgcina	0739435435 0714876376	Ezihagweni initiation site Commonage initiation site
22	Nyanga Junction	Mr Andile Siyo	0829530465	Nyanga Junction initiation site
23	Oudtshoorn	Mr Lizo Dani Mr Amos Myo	0795200163 0784960919/0827241146	Bongoletu Initiation site
24	Oudtshoorn Khoisan Ga'ibhai- qua Initiation Forum	Mr. Hermanus Baadjies Mr Willem Jansen	0620722194 0603936151	Oudtshoorn Initiation site
25	Phillipi	Mr Nicholas Tiya Mr Sikelela Zokufa	0720360522 0737726574	Joe Gqabi initiation site

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No.	Initiation Forum	Chairpersons	Contact Number	Initiation Site
26	Plettenberg Bay	Mr Mbuyiselo Dani Mr Thobela Desi	0767858293 0719900384	Dyasi / New Extension / Reservoir initiation sites
27	Riversdale	Mr Wandile Hans Mr Siboniso Ndengane	0825435154 0835045556	KwaNokuthula Initiation site
28	Robertson	Mr Litha Sibhara Mr John Adonisi	0746740590 0826613744	Nkqubela initiation site
29	Saldanha Bay	Mr Skhoma Mr Aaron	0635444056 0630024386	Saldanha Bay initiation site Smartietown initiation site
30	Swellendam	Mr Aaron	0630024386	Smartietown initiation site
31	Vredenburg	Councillor Mawawa Mr. Michael Phakamisa Khulu	0730344618 0783336352	Vredenburg initiation site
32	Wolseley	Mr Stanley Ndabeni Mr Rufus Swangaza	0738626860 0784375609	Pine Valley initiation site
33	Worcester	Mr Mtheza Mkhwane Mr Thabang Sebetoane	0825960036 0787793341	Zweletemba initiation site Skietbaan initiation site

## Emergency Numbers

Fire & natural disaster management	107 from landline or 112 from mobile
Police	10111
Ambulance	10177

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Afrikaans and isiXhosa versions of this publication are available on request.  
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