

# Rapid Assessment of the Western Cape Government Safety Plan



The Western Cape Safety Plan is considered integral to the five-year Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP) 2019-2024 of the Western Cape Government, in terms of Vision-Inspired Priority 1- Safe & Cohesive Communities. The Safety Plan sets out the intent of the WCG to implement interventions addressing the problems of “concentrated high levels of crime and an inadequate police response” as well as the “underlying causes of crime and violence” which are ultimately intended to halve the murder rate in the Western Cape over the next decade. Since the official launch of the Western Cape Safety Plan in February 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic has affected roll-out and implementation. As government adjusts to the realities of COVID-19 in the short to medium-term, the WCG sought to undertake a rapid assessment of the design and implementation of Western Cape Government’s Provincial Safety Plan to inform recommendations for improvement in light of COVID-19 developments.

PDG team members, contracted to Quantum Leap Consulting, formed part of the Provincial Data Office team as evaluation experts to undertake a rapid assessment of the Provincial Safety Plan and produced a draft report within 6 weeks of the start of the assignment. This included responsibility for all planning, document and literature review, data collection, analysis and presentations. The assessment employed a utilisation-focused, mixed-method response drawing on embedded team members within the Western Cape Government to derive efficiencies and harness the on-going evaluative work for the Provincial Data Office. The assessment drew on the following methods of data collection: literature review, documentary review (incl. of departmental research, meeting minutes, official communication, presentations, etc); key stakeholder interviews (individual



and group); interactive workshop; and secondary data analysis. The evaluation team worked closely with the client throughout the course of the assessment to provide updates and feedback to adapt, access or adjust the methodology as necessary to support the overarching assessment purpose within the rapid timeframes. This rapid assessment proved one of the first of its kinds for the Western Cape Government and employed a ‘hybrid’ arrangement between external experts and government officials.

The rapid assessment contributed to on-going improvements to Safety Plan implementation, particularly in light of COVID-19 developments, and proved an informant to a revised set of provincial strategic priorities pertaining to provincial safety.

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## WCESR1-4 PROJECT:

**Project Profile:** Rapid Assessment of the Western Cape Government Safety Plan

**Client:** Western Cape Department of the Premier (via Quantum Leap Consulting)

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