

Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology

16 October 2007



Social science that makes a difference



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

2006/07

- First full year for new strategic thrust (introduced August 2005)
- Consolidating on changes introduced in 2005/06
- Having made these changes – also new initiatives underway
- Commitment to Shareholder's Agreement
- Progress captured under the headings of **PAITECS** – main elements of strategic thrust

Public Purpose

- We sought to consolidate and strengthen our *public-purpose* research activities, and exceeded our numerical target for this indicator
- The PAU coordinates research, undertakes analytical work and convenes policy dialogues between and among policy makers, policy users, social science researchers, national and international subject experts, and other stakeholders

Examples of public purpose research

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger,
- Achieving improvements of conditions for people living in slums and informal settlements,
- Promoting universal access to primary education and eliminating gender disparity,
- Assessing the impact of gender policies and interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa and
- Assessing the impact of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes



Public purpose

Research impact and uptake: Social aspects of housing

- Findings: government housing policy as SA's major anti-poverty thrust is essentially correct, BUT needs to take account of the practical requirements for families receiving subsidised houses to keep their new asset so they can use housing as platform for saving and impacts:
 - The Deputy Minister of Science and Technology expressed interest in the results of the demographic analysis of settlement types for the IDP project
 - A proposed wall chart tool to empower local government planners to read off housing demand from demographic data has drawn interest at Cabinet level.
 - The Research Agenda process in DOH has taken up research results relating to the Breaking New Ground (BNG) housing policy

Public Purpose: R&D research impact

- HSRC conducts research on South Africa's progress in Science and Technology
- Ten Year Plan of DST relies on the data that HSRC has assembled through the R&D Survey time series built for the period 2001/02 onward.



Public purpose

Research impact and uptake: HIV/AIDS Research

- The HIV & AIDS and STI strategic plan for South Africa 2007-2011 is informed by empirical research work on HIV prevalence, attitudes and behaviour undertaken and coordinated by the HSRC.
- HSRC staff contributed extensively in sectoral workshops and consultative meetings informing the development of this plan.
- Of 99 references cited in the strategic plan at least 31 included HSRC authors and were based on HSRC research
- The results of the 2005 South African national household survey on HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication were quoted in the 2XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto
- Further studies undertaken to explore findings relevant to specific sub-groups (e.g. very young children) in more detail

Assessing the impact of policies and programmes

- Results of the Monitoring Trends in Education Quality (MONITEQ) project have been integrated as part of the national Common Tasks of Assessments to conduct the Grade 9 Systemic Evaluation Study in English, Mathematics and Science
- Grade 8 Study –WC



Assessing the impact of policies and programmes: Employment and Growth

- The first set of scenarios, focusing on possible sources of job creation, yielded insights such as
 - If the economy grows by 3% pa to 2014, unemployment could rise. If GDP grows by 6% pa, unemployment could halve by 2014; but that still requires substantial employment contributions by the public service and EPWP.
 - Public employment will need to become a more important focus of employment and active labour market policy.
 - The structure of production is important to poverty reduction, since some sectors inherently contribute to wage growth more than others.
 - Manufacturing is unlikely to generate more than 5% to 10% of the overall employment target.
 - that do not sufficiently take advantage of global opportunity.
- In short, it is foreseen that:
 - Even if unemployment were halved, serious attention will be needed to identify an employment/poverty reduction package.

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Africa Focus

- Collaboration with other African institutions has increased
 - the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA),
 - Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA),
 - African Youth Charter and
 - the CODESRIA-HSRC partnership



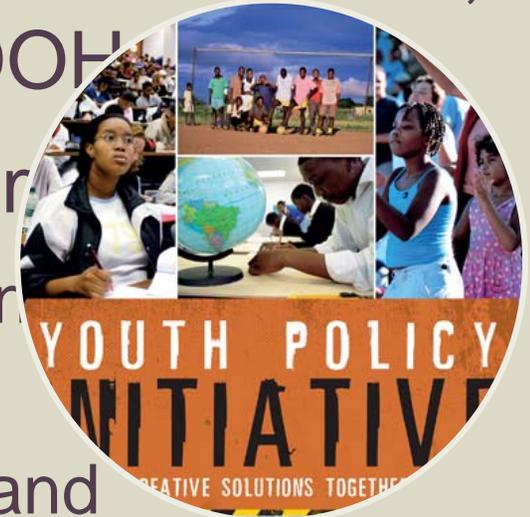
Implementation Networks

- The nexus between policy and research is often missing
- The HSRC establishes implementation networks as a means of bridging that gap
- Researchers expected to bring multiple agencies and groups together to work in concert to achieve the envisioned research objectives



Examples of Implementation networks

- Youth Initiative: Presidency, Youth Commission, Umsobomvu Youth Fund, DSD, DOH
- Employment, Growth and Development
 - Working group of experts, government officials, trade unions, and business
 - Reference group of business, union and government leaders
- CHAMP, CBVCT and Bt20 have steering and/or advisory committees including government (local, provincial or national), NGOs and CABs (Community Advisory Boards)



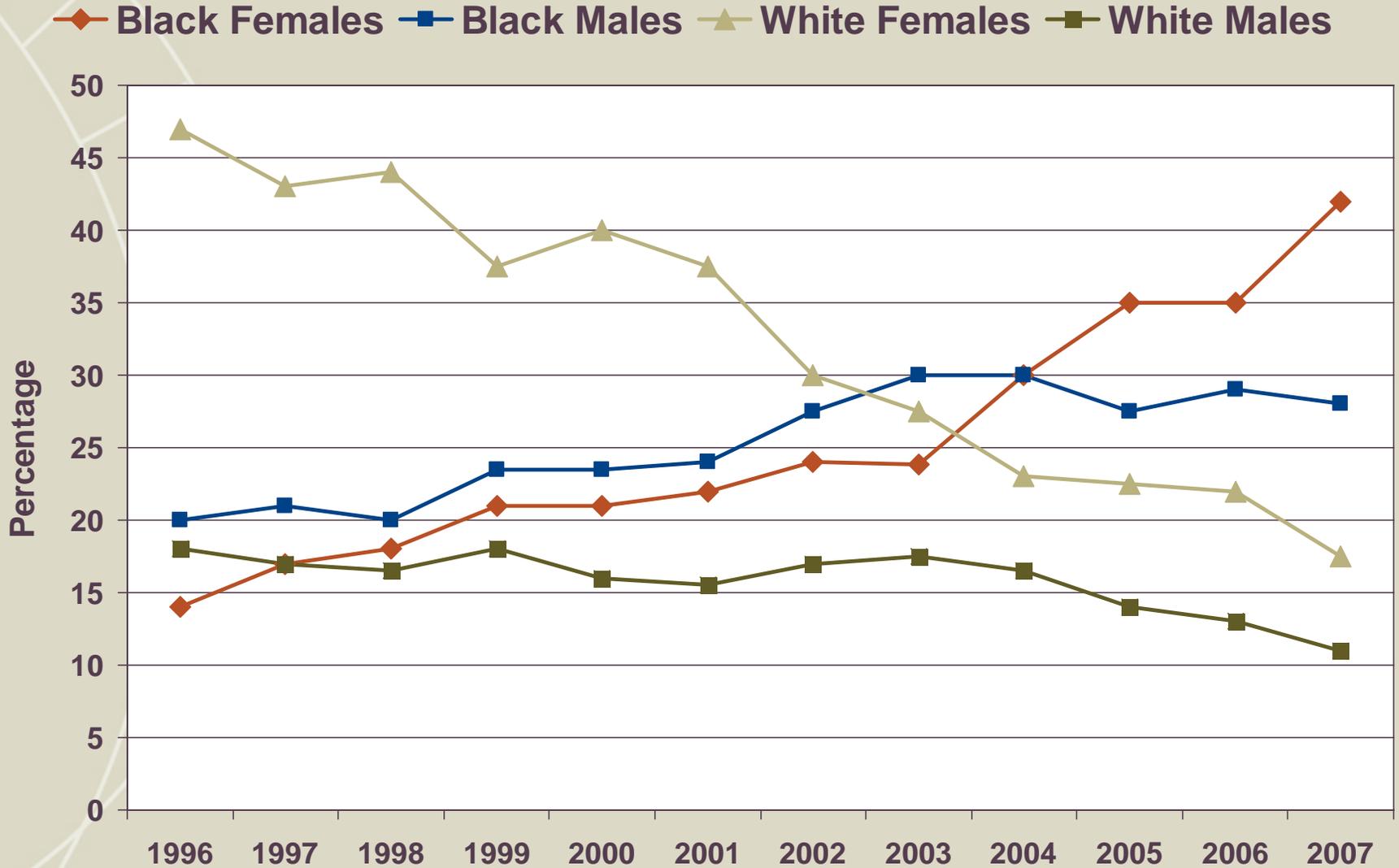
Transformation

- Although the HSRC is 71% black (51% African, 13% coloured, and 7% Indian) it is still not sufficiently representative at senior levels
 - **Reason:** non-competitive salaries, scarce skills and not enough posts to appoint staff on permanent posts.
 - **Solutions:** Conducted salary benchmarking exercise; appointed deputy executive directors; need more baseline funding to appoint staff on permanent posts

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Transformation

Overall staff composition over time



Transformation

- Introduced a gender mainstreaming training programme
- Some 190 staff members attended gender sensitivity training courses



Transformation

- Wellness Day(s) 2007: HSRC cares
 - Range of services rendered:
 - **Personal health:** Free testing and screening for eyes, cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes, HIV
 - **Financial health:** Seminars & personal consultation by major bank; retirements planning advice
 - **Other:** Free massages, consultations with dieticians, physical fitness presentations, prizes and gifts to participants



Excellence

- Raise bar on journal publications
 - The Sciences Citation Index of the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI)
 - The Social Sciences Citation Index of the ISI
 - The Arts and Humanities Citation Index of the ISI
 - The International Bibliography of Social Sciences (IBSS)

Excellence

HSRC Dissemination per Month



10,144 visits came from 127 countries/territories

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Capacity Building Programme Objectives

- To increase the pool of competent researchers for human and social sciences in South Africa
- To support the development underrepresented group of researchers to enable the HSRC to meet its equity targets
- To support and drive professional development in line with the operational strategy and performance management system
- To facilitate the placement of international scholars in the HSRC
- To foster inter-institutional collaboration within South Africa, the African continent and the international community to support HSRC capacity-building initiatives

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Capacity Development

- The HSRC contributes to human capital development through the consolidation and expansion of research internship and fellowship programmes
- Enrollment:
 - 10 research interns with a primary degree,
 - 29 candidates into the Master's degree internship
 - 20 candidates for a PhD programme and
 - 4 post-doctoral fellows
- With the increase in the funding from DST on capacity development, the HSRC has set higher targets for FY 07/08

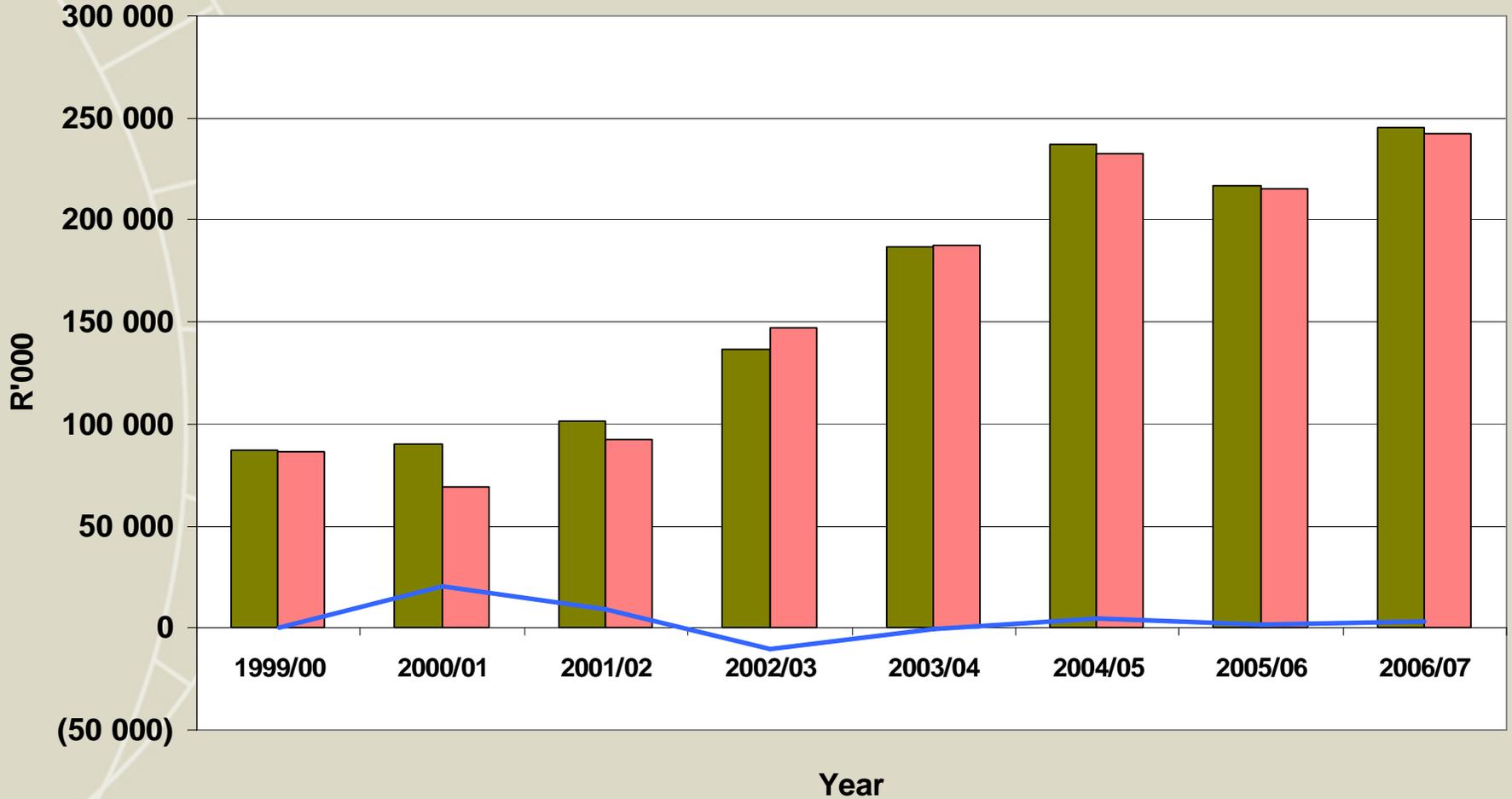
Sustainability

- Financial performance 2006/07:
 - Highest total income ever
 - Gap between external income and PG narrowing
- Other important organisational developments:
 - Finance and Supply Chain Management policies developed and implemented
 - Savings from new travel arrangements-
 - Fraud prevention policy approved

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Income statements

Revenue Expenditure Surplus/(Deficit)



Governance

- Unqualified Audit for 7 years in a row
 - Cash flow management
 - The HSRC has continued to manage its cash flow better by accelerating collection from trade and other receivables since 2005/06
 - The volume of trade and other receivables has grown from 2005/06 to 2006/07, indicating an increase in external income
 - The HSRC had positive cash flow throughout the financial year
 - The average investments of the HSRC was R48 million per month
 - At year-end the investment balance was R21 million
- Currently the investment balance is R 91,5 million

Indicator	Target: 31-03-2007	Performance: 31-03-2007
Public Purpose	80%	91.9%
Africa-focus	30%	33.3%
African research fellows	12	4
Implementation Networking	40%	70%
Transformation: Equity and representativeness		
African senior researchers	37.8%	25.3%
Coloured senior researchers	8.9%	10.7%
Indian senior researchers	6.7%	9.3%
White senior researchers	46.6%	54.7%
Attrition of permanent staff	12%	11.3%
Gender sensitivity training	50%	57.2%
Excellence		
Peer-reviewed publications per senior researcher	0.85	1.11
Peer-reviewed publications per junior researcher	0.45	0.35
Capacity building		
Master's interns	35	29
PhD interns	20	20
Post-doctoral fellowships	10	4
Sustainability: Contract and grants		
Extra-parliamentary grants	60%	63.8%
Multi-year grants	35%	46.2%

Conclusion

HSRC

- Conducts research to support policy development, monitoring and evaluation of programmes & involves key stakeholders
- Produce quality research
- Has Africa-focus
- Makes progress on transformation & capacity building
- Cares for its staff
- Is financially sustainable
- Observes good governance principles

Appreciation

- Minister and Deputy Minister
- Members of Portfolio Committee
- DST: DG and team
- HSRC Council: Chair, each member, chairs and members of sub-committees
- HSRC Stakeholders
 - Service providers for research and support activities – including office of the Auditor General
 - Collaborators in research and capacity development – especially at higher education institutions
 - Government departments
 - Donors
 - Representatives of international community
- HSRC management team, each member of staff



Social science that makes a difference

A livhuha / Ndi a livhuha / Ukhani (Venda)

Baie dankie (Afrikaans)

Enkosi kakhulu (Xhosa)

Ngiyabonga kakulu (Swati, Zulu, Ndebele)

I nkomu (Tsonga)

Ke a leboga (Pedi)

Ke itumela (Tswana)

Ke a leboha (Sotho)

Thank you (English)

Asante sana / Ahsante (Kiswahili)

Merci (French)

Ni wega (Kikuyu)

Obrigada (Portuguese)

