

Cape Town Regional Networking Event Report

Wesgro Office, 7th Floor, Media 24 Foreshore
40 Heerengracht St, Cape Town City Centre
25 June 2026



Event Overview

NASCEE, in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), Kagiso Trust and Edu Invest powered by Wesgro, hosted the Cape Town Regional Networking Event on 25 June 2026. The theme for the day was **“Provincial education priorities: Strategic priorities for 2026 and opportunities for partnership and collaboration”**.



The event featured an address by Ashley Roman, the Deputy Director for Project Incubation at the WCED, who shared perspectives on key focus areas for the year and highlighted opportunities for collaboration with civil society organisations to strengthen support for schools and learners. Wendy Viljoen from EduInvest powered by Wesgro also presented on EduInvest’s role in aligning investment, funding, and partnerships with Western Cape education priorities, particularly across the full education lifecycle from early childhood development through higher education and skills development. And lastly, a presentation by Giles Gillet, the NASCEE CEO, who demonstrated how the NED Connect platform can actively facilitate collaboration and contribute towards strategic data-informed decision-making.



The event highlighted the importance of working in partnership with the WCED as a custodian of schools, teachers, and learners.

Event Objectives



Strengthen provincial and district-level collaboration among education NGOs and government stakeholders



Support stronger connections and relationships between key stakeholders

Key Insights

A central theme was that the challenge is not only funding, but also the disconnect between available funding and education priorities, which requires stronger coordination and partnership structures. Speakers emphasised that **collaboration must move beyond loose cooperation toward coalition building**, with long-term commitment, trust, and clearer roles and responsibilities.

The event concluded with a panel discussion on effective collaboration with the following speakers: **Tori Gardner**, CEO, Numeric; **Andile Mangali**, Principal, Bardale Primary School; **Geoff Jacobs**, CEO, Dinaledi; and **Dr Nadeen Moolla**, Chief Director, Inclusive Education and Special Programmes, WCED.

There was strong agreement across NGO, school, government, and audience perspectives that **transparency** is essential for buy-in, alignment, and improved implementation facilitated through collaboration. Panellists stressed the need for stronger MOUs, courageous conversations about what is and is not working, and honest reporting on successes, failures, and lessons learned.

There was also interest in **practical mechanisms for better collaboration**, including topic-specific sessions between the provincial government and civil society, collaborative funding proposals, and better ecosystem mapping through platforms and databases such as NED Connect. Additional priorities raised included greater clarity on WCED strategies such as early childhood development, Grade 4 Maths, Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education (MTbBE), and continuous teacher development, as well as more attention to the social-emotional realities facing teachers in the public sector.





104 attendees

***4,5 hours
engagement***



Conclusion

Overall, the event underscored that meaningful impact in education depends on coordinated action, shared metrics, and trust-based partnerships rather than isolated interventions. The discussion pointed toward a more structured and collaborative ecosystem where government, NGOs, schools, and funders work together around clear priorities, common goals, and long-term delivery.

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