



# SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **COMPACT OF SOLIDARY TO MAKE MOMENTS MEANINGFUL: INTERNATIONAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORKERS' WEEK: 4 TO 10 MAY 2020**

*International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week* is celebrated globally in the first week of May. This year it is celebrated from today the 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May under the theme "**Making Moments Meaningful**" emphasising the importance of meaningful professional engagements by child and youth care workers with children, youth, families, and communities.

Child and youth care work is a recognised social service profession in South Africa and the profession falls under the auspices of the South African Council for Social Service Professions' (SACSSP) Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Child and youth care workers at a professional and auxiliary level are required by law to register with the SACSSP in order to be licensed to practice their profession, similar to the other social service profession, social work, that also falls under the SACSSP. Currently (as on 31 March 2020), 80 child and youth care worker in the professional category of registration, 7,273 child and youth care workers in the auxiliary category of registration and 1,767 students in child and youth care work are registered with the SACSSP.

During *International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week* the SACSSP joins many organisations, employers, service users and, most significantly, child and youth care workers in the country and across the globe to recognise and celebrate the role of this profession in social service delivery. In South Africa child and youth care workers practice in residential care settings such as child and youth care centres and in communities where they provide professional support to children and families, including child-headed households, children living and working on the streets, children in schools, to mention a few.

*International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week* is celebrated in 2020 at a time where the world is dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on society as a whole. During this International Week the theme – *Making Moments Meaningful* – carries a critical message for the child and youth care work profession, and for society as a whole. The children of the world, and their families, experience a sudden change in the things that had everyday meaning to them (and everybody else), for example, relationships, routines, hygiene practices, safety, support networks, services and time and space to play. This is also the time where the interventions of, amongst others, child and youth care workers are not only needed but essential, to give meaning to a new way of living and doing through professional interventions and support.

The SACSSP calls during this week upon child and youth care workers to contribute their professional knowledge and skills not only to the children, families and communities that they work with, but also to the professional multi-disciplinary teams that they participate in. There is a need for a compact of social solidarity between social services professionals (child and youth care workers and social workers), health care professionals, educators, and others, during the time of COVID-19 to mitigate the impact of social distancing, isolation, risk and fear, and changing norms and routines on the psycho-social well-being of children.

The South African Council for Social Service Professions would like to recognise the role of all registered child and youth care workers in using meaningful moments as part of their professional practice, while also wishing them an *International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week* filled with more meaningful moments, especially during these challenging times in our country and the world.

For more information on International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week visit <https://www.cyc-net.org/CYCWeek2020.html>

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