



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON THE 47TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

6 November 2020

The Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 47th meeting on 29 September 2020 using a virtual platform. The PBSW welcomed representatives from the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) who presented their mandate, an overview on occupational qualifications and accreditation of qualifications. Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) presented on the review of Social Auxiliary Work qualification.

The Professional Board noted the following on the organisational report:

- The office of the Registrar in collaboration with ASASWEI, Universities and veterans are working on the Job readiness programme that is funded by HWSETA for graduates and unemployed social workers. When all the planning is finalised, the sector will be informed.
- A follow-up meeting with the Kingdom of Lesotho is planned for 15 October 2020 to discuss Social Work qualifications and the establishment of a Professional Board and Council.

On education, training and development the Professional Board noted:

- CPD assessment panel continues to conduct meetings weekly. This panel, consisting of 5 members, work on approximately 10 applications per meeting and assessments are conducted in terms of the new CPD policy.
- From July until September 2020, 121 applications were assessed, 83 were approved, 13 were not approved and 25 were suspended.
- International qualification oral interviews were conducted on 24 to 28 September 2020; 5 social auxiliary worker applicants were interviewed and all were found competent. 4 social worker applicants were interviewed and 3 were found competent.
- A meeting with the Family Advocate took place on 31 August 2020 to explain specialisation in Forensic social work; registration for the specialisation, assessment criteria and the regulations were discussed.
- The task team for specialisation in social work supervision held a meeting on 17 September 2020 to finalise the assessment criteria.
- The task teams for specialisation will identify subject matter experts (assessors and moderators) to serve on assessment panels. The identified moderators and assessors will be approved by PBSW according to norms and standards and will go through orientation.

From registration, PBSW noted the following:

- There are 36 219 social workers, 12 008 social auxiliary workers, 15 120 student social workers and 11 699 learner social auxiliary workers registered with the SACSSP.

- Council have in accordance to section 20(1) (d) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978 as amended, instructed the Registrar to remove from the register of practitioners, the names of all persons who have failed to pay their annual fees by 26 August 2020. Any person whose name will be removed shall be notified in writing and should s/he wish to restore, s/he may do so in terms of section 20(3) of the Act.

PBSW noted with appreciation the donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) provided to the SACSSP by the HWSETA to support and strengthen the social services sector across the country, to ensure that social service practitioners are safe and protected against the spread of Covid-19 when rendering services to the communities. The PPEs were distributed to NPOs and government departments.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP/ Council) is a statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act No. 110 of 1978 (the Act). Council has two professional boards under its auspices: the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council, in conjunction with its two professional boards, guides and regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration; education and training; professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with professional standards. It protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with Council in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practising social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student child and youth care workers, and student auxiliary child and youth care workers.