



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMIT ON THE CRISIS IN THE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH HOSTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work will host a strategic Summit on Thursday 6 May 2021 under the theme “**The crisis in the child and youth care sector in South Africa and its impact on the welfare of children and youth**”.

Child and youth care work has been a regulated social service profession in South Africa under the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 since October 2014. The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work regulates the practice of the child and youth care work practitioners in terms of the SSP Act no 110 of 1978. Child and youth care workers at professional and auxiliary levels are required by law to be registered with the SACSSP in order to practise their profession. Child and youth care work is registered as a professional designation with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) under the ambit of the SACSSP. Currently there are 147 child and youth care workers registered at professional level; 7,896 at auxiliary level as well as 3,367 students and learners who are completing their studies across different Universities and TVETs.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work recognises the significant progress that has been made in relation to the profession over the past decades, but is also aware of persistent, often systemic challenges that are experienced by the profession. The establishment of the first Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work in 2005 was a response to the aspirations towards the growth of this profession in the country, aspirations which have, in the main, not yet been realized.

The Summit on 6 May 2021 will address some of the pertinent issues facing the child and youth care work profession and confirmed speakers include:

- Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu.
- Chairperson of the Portfolio committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA, Ms Faith Muthambi.
- President of South African Council for Social Service Professions, Dr Maria Mabetoa.
- Deputy Director General in the Gauteng Department of Social Development, Mr Onkemetse Kabasia.

The Summit will be held as follows:

Date: 6 May 2021

Time: 9h00 – 15h00

Venue: Online (Microsoft Team): Link to be confirmed upon confirmation of attendance.

Live streaming link will be available on the day under:

youtube.com/channel/UC3mxBptUv2tatoHS_k0x2YA

Members of the media can RSVP by contacting Ms Lungelwa Mbuzo on 060 983 3839 or LunqiM@sacssp.co.za

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

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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 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 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 practicing social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, learner social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers.