



# **SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS**

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## **STATEMENT ON THE 63<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS**

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REF: 2/1/2/12

9 December 2021

The South African Council for Social Professions (SACSSP) held its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 29 November 2021 using a MS Teams virtual platform. Council observed that this meeting was taking place during the 16 Days for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign in the country and the important role social service professionals play in contributing to the wellbeing of vulnerable groups.

Council was informed that strict minimum health, safety and social distancing measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 are implemented when members of the public visit the office, and that staff also adheres to measures as required. Council indicated its appreciation for social service professionals continuing to play a critical role in supporting individuals, families and communities during a period when the country is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council was briefed on the progress made with transitioning to the new integrated interactive IT system that will allow for more online transactions and processes, which will benefit registrants. Council was informed that this will include electronic barcoded certificates where social service professionals will be able to log on their secure profiles, print certificates and receipts electronically in a secure manner. The new system is in the final stages of testing before being implemented and all registered social service professionals will be informed as soon as the new system goes "live". There will be a trial run session with a few practitioners before launching the new system.

The Registrar, as Returning Officer in terms of the Social Service Professions Act, briefed Council on the preparations for election processes towards the 5<sup>th</sup> Council, 5<sup>th</sup> Professional Board for Social Work and 4<sup>th</sup> Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work that will take place in the first half of 2022. The Returning Officer will issue a Notice confirming availability of nominees, whereafter the date and procedures for the election will be announced through a General Notice. A project schedule for election awareness drive will be shared as soon as possible in the new year, and will include virtual roadshows and a physical outreach, the latter is subject to COVID protocols and regulations at the time of implementation.

Council noted that the research to understand the landscape of social service professions in the country that was conducted in partnership with UNICEF (see General Notice 8 of 2021) was concluded. Council and the Professional Boards will study the recommendations. The final report will be published on the SACSSP's website as soon as it is finalised and branded for public consumption. Council expressed appreciation for the partnership with the Health & Welfare Sector, Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) in the development and implementation of the *Social Work Readiness Programme (SWRP)* under the auspices of the Professional Board for Social Work. The SWRP is designed to enhance and facilitate the employability of unemployed social workers and newly qualified social workers through a customised capacity development programme that focuses on knowledge, skills and experience to support their readiness and transition to employment. More information is available on the SACSSP's [website](https://www.sacssp.co.za).

Council approved the following policies submitted by the Professional Board for Social Work;

- Education, Training and Development Quality Assurance Policy for Social Work
- Standard Operating Procedures: Special programme of assistance : Persons whose qualifications In Social Work was obtained outside of the country or does not meet the minimum requirements in terms of Section 17 D of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978
- Social Work Readiness Programme (recruitment strategies, instruction manual and induction handbook).

Council noted the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work report and the discontinuation of Level 4 Qualification in Child and Youth Care Work with NQF Level 5 as the replacement. A Notice with more details will be issued by the Registrar within the next few weeks.

Council approved, on recommendation of the Communication and Public Relations Committee, the SACSSP's *Consolidated Annual Report for the financial years 2016/17 , 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20*.

This report will cover all the financial years as well as the associated audit financial statements and will be published on the website in January 2022. Council further noted that the Annual Report for the 2020/2021 financial year is also underway.

Council further approved a number of other internal policies and guidelines.

Council concluded its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and the Secretariat for the work done during these challenging times. Council wished all those who celebrate Christmas, a Merry Christmas and safe travelling for those who will be on the roads during the festive season.

**ISSUED BY:** SACSSP Communications

## **ENQUIRIES:**

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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.