



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 31st MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

30 November 2017

The South African Council for Social Professions' Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work held its 31st meeting on from 20 to 21 November 2017 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 30th meeting held in June 2017.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work noted that the backlog decreased and that of the 788 applications received student child and youth care workers and child and youth care workers at auxiliary level since July 2017, 539 have been processed and registered. The Professional Board will conduct roadshows in Mpumalanga, Free State, Limpopo and North West on the value of professional registration from the second week of February in 2018. More details will be communicated early in 2018.

The Professional Board is in the process of establishing Committee for Preliminary Inquiry (CPI) and a Professional Conduct Committee (also known as the disciplinary committee) for child and youth care work as to give effect on the requirements of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978. As soon as these committees are established and the working procedures are developed the sector will be informed accordingly.

The importance of continuing professional development and maintaining professional knowledge and skills for child and youth care workers was deliberated during the two day meeting. The Professional Board is finalising the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy for child and youth care workers and details regarding this will be communicated as soon as the policy and related processes are approved.

The meeting discussed the importance of recognizing and including child and youth care workers in the human resource strategies and structures of employers of social service professionals. The Professional Board reported on the engagement it had with the Department of Social Development, a major employer of child and youth care workers, on the recognition of the child and youth care work professionals in its human resource policy and structure as well as the supervision of child and youth care workers which should be done by registered and regulated child and youth care workers. The aforementioned will be followed-up with similar engagements in 2018.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work approached nineteen higher education institutions regarding the education, training and professional development of child and youth care workers. It was reported to the meeting that three universities i.e. University of Limpopo, University of South Africa (UNISA) and University of Western Cape (UWC), replied with interest in offering a child and youth care work degree, which will be further pursued by the Professional Board. The Professional Board is also engaging with the HWSETA around the development of leaning material for NQF level 4, which includes exploring ways to strengthen the collaboration with the HWSETA.

The Professional Board proposed that the child and youth care regulations published under Government Gazette Number 38135 of 31 October 2014 be amended with regard to the entry level for registration at professional level and to extend the granny clause of 3 years from the promulgation of the regulations

in 2014 to a further 4 years. This proposal was submitted to the South African Council for Social Service Professions for review and endorsement, after which it will be submitted to the Minister for Social Development with a recommendation to amend the regulations.

Issued by: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Public Relations and Marketing Officer

South African Council for Social Services Professions

37 Annie Botha Avenue, Riviera, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

Website: <http://www.sacssp.co.za> Facebook: @OfficialSACSSP Twitter: @SACSSP1

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.