



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

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## **STATEMENT ON 33<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK**

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REF 2/2/2/4/8

2 August 2018

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work held its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting on from 24 to 25 July 2018 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in May 2018.

The Professional Board noted that there is a batch of 2,680 registration applications received before, which the Registration Division was unable process due to there being insufficient information in the applications. Despite all of these applicants being contacted, the requested information has not been received. A decision was taken to fast track the finalisation of this backlog by contacting the candidates for the last time, notifying them of their outstanding documents. The Professional Board is appealing to all child and youth care workers who have applied and have received communication from Council to submit further documentation to submit those outstanding documentations urgently for their applications to be finalised.

The Professional Board had an opportunity to review the HWSETA NQF Level 5 learning material for child and youth care workers and the outcome was unsatisfactory as the learning material does not reflect the required standards for child and youth care work accurately. The Professional Board will have further engagements with the HWSETA to address this issue.

*Policy Guidelines for Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics for Child and Youth Care Workers* is being reviewed by the Professional Board, and once all Members' inputs are incorporated, sectoral consultations will take place so that there will be broad input into these key documents.

During this meeting a representative from the National Department of Social Development: Service Standard Directorate presented a proposed *Postgraduate Diploma on Supervision* that the department has developed for training of social service professionals who are in the public and private sectors (including NGOs, NPOs) on supervision. The proposed qualification is pitched at level 8 (120 credits) and it is proposed that it can be undertaken as a certificate course for those who do not have degrees. The Department is also reviewing supervision framework that will cater for all social service professionals as the current one only caters for social work. It will further develop a supervision manual and mentoring guideline. The Department has consulted with relevant stakeholders and will present this to the Council for Higher Education for accreditation. A task team has been formed by the Professional Board to quality assure this supervision framework and to make sure that child and youth care work sector is properly represented, as it has not had an opportunity to input into this process to date. The Professional Board was very encouraged by the proposed undertaking but noted that the outline presented required a greater input of information from the child and youth care work profession to be sure that it was truly representative. More developments about this course will be shared once they are made available.

The Professional Board raised several concerns with the Department of Social Development, which was represented at the meeting, and is a major employer of child and youth care workers. The Professional Board noted with appreciation the fact that the Department recognised the urgent need for a focus on the sector. The Professional Board communicated to the Department, once again, the concern that the profession is now regulated, but yet the opportunities within the sector are limited by factors which relate to the Department's management of the sector. Amongst the issues raised and those that will form part of a submission to the department are as follows:

- No one is currently tasked with championing child and youth care work within the national department;
- There is very poor recognition of child and youth care work professionals in departmental human resource policy and structure;
- Supervision of child and youth care workers should be done by registered and regulated child and youth care workers, but is often not provided – and a supervisory level of child and youth care work should be created to ensure that career paths for child and youth care workers are created;

- Job advertisements for child and youth care workers are frequently put out by the department which do not include a requirement to be registered with South African Council for Social Service Professions, and this is in contravention of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, and is a practice which must stop;
- There significant disparities in salaries of child and youth care workers across different settings and provinces; and
- There are concerns about the late payments by provincial department to NGOs which render these organisations often unable to provide services for long periods of time. This relates particularly, but not uniquely, to child and youth care workers who work in Isibindi projects.

A representative of the Department of Social Development who is also a member of Council was present to listen to these concerns by the Professional Board, and the concerns were acknowledged and noted by the representative. There was a commitment expressed to the process of redress from the side of the department, and a commitment to continuous engagement with the PBCYC on these issues going forward.

*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.