



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 36TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

3 October 2017

The Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 36th meeting on 12 and 13 September 2017 in Pretoria, Gauteng. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board, which include areas such as advocating for the social work profession; progress regarding specialisation in social work, e.g. adoption, social work in health care, school social work, supervision and management; the continuing professional development (CPD) backlog as well as the clinical and forensic social work registration process.

The Professional Board resolved that draft regulations of the specialisation areas mentioned above will be finalized for recommendation to Council at its next meeting in November 2017.

The Professional Board noted that the education, training and development division sent out correspondence regarding incomplete CPD applications to those concerned and wishes to urge applicants to respond to the request and submit their outstanding documents.

The Professional Board noticed that there is a non-adherence of the Regulations regarding registering as a student social worker and resolved that a joint team comprising of the education, training and development, professional conduct and registration divisions must visit universities and inform them about their role in screening of applicants prior to accepting students for the social work degree and for ensuring that all social work students are registered with Council before doing any practicum. The criteria for acceptance into the social work programme should also adhere to the *Fit and Proper Policy* of Council.

From the registration division applications for registration was identified where a considerable time lapse between qualifying and initial registration with Council was noted with concern. The implication would be that these potential registrants will be lacking relevant social work skills and experience by the time they want to enter the social work profession. The Professional Board resolved that those that have never practiced or haven't practiced for a period of five years or longer should go through a national induction job readiness programme sponsored by HWSETA to re-orientate them on the scope of practice for social work and current labour market. Further information on how to enrol in this programme will be provided as soon as the logistics and a plan is finalised.

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