



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

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## **STATEMENT ON 40<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK**

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Ref: 2/2/1/4/8

15 October 2018

The South African Council for Social Professions' Professional Board for Social Work held its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting from 9 to 10 October 2018 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting held in July 2018.

The Professional Board reflected on their stakeholder meeting with National Coalition for Social Services (NACOSS) on 8 August 2018 and various concerns were raised regarding the subsidy non-governmental organisations are receiving as well as the workload and working conditions of social service professionals. The Professional Board took a resolution to look into these concerns as they are part of bigger concerns related to the professions and will draw attention to these issues to heads of departments of the provinces affected.

The Professional Board took note that outstanding disciplinary hearings have been reduced to 5 (five). The Professional Board anticipates to finalise these before the end of this financial year.

The Professional Board identified specific gaps on the *Policy on the Fit and Proper Person Requirement* and is busy reviewing the policy and will share the revised version with the sector early next year. Due to low response from the sector on the revised *Policy Guideline for Course of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Rules for Social Workers* document that was circulated for public comments, the Professional Board decided to establish a national working group representing associations in social work as well as employers of social workers (government and non-governmental) for more inputs and finalise the document.

The Professional Board noted the problem that is experienced by various settings because of lack of a clear and detailed scope of practice for the social work profession. The Professional Board together with Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) is reviewing the scope of practice for social work and will submit it to the Minister of Social Development to be published in the Government Gazette for public comment.

The proposed regulations for social workers to specialise in adoption social work, clinical social work, forensic social work, occupational social work, social work supervision and social work in health care were approved by the Professional Board and will be presented to Council for approval. Assessors and moderators of these specialities will be recruited to develop the rubric for assessments.

The Professional Board reviewed and incorporated the comments received from the sector on the *Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy for Social Workers and Social Auxiliary Workers* and the final revised document will be submitted to Council in November 2018 for approval. Once approved, the policy will be made public. The new Council on Higher Education (CHE) standards which replace the Exit Level Outcomes (ELOs) have been aligned and the *Quality Assurance Tool*

for a *Bachelor of Social Work* has been revised. The quality assurance tool will be submitted to higher education institutions for comment.

The Professional Board concluded its meeting by expressing appreciation to the Members for a fruitful 2018 and staff for their hard work.

*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.