



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 41st MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

29 March 2019

The South African Council for Social Professions' Professional Board for Social Work held its 41st meeting from 26 to 27 February 2019 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 40th meeting held in October 2018.

The Professional Board noted with concern the number of unidentified payments made by registrants who omit to put their registration details as reference. A comprehensive strategy and a draft plan from Finance, registration and IT will be drafted to address this matter. The Board is appealing to all practitioners who have not made their annual fee payments by 22 February 2019, when new fees were published, to do so urgently before the deadline of the 31 March 2019. Follow link below to access the gazetted fees regulations https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201902/42240gon221.pdf.

It was reported that as of 26 February 2019, 32 009 social workers, 10 986 social auxiliary workers, 17 225 student social workers and 11 211 student social auxiliary workers were registered with Council. Registration department received 1 399 new applications from January to 25 February 2019, 685 were registered and 714 could not be processed due to outstanding documents. The Professional Board requests applicants to act on the communication they receive from Council regarding the status of their applications. From 2017 to 2019 February 2019 there were 2 944 certificates of social workers, social auxiliary workers and student social workers that were returned. The Professional Board is appealing to all professionals who have applied and have not as yet received their certificates to check their names on the link below, and contact Council

https://www.sacssp.co.za/content/documents/SACSSP_RETURNED_CERTIFICATES_2016_TO_2019.pdf

The departments of education, training and development and Registrations attended to 589 new applications relating to adoption specialisations. Applicants who did not meet the requirements were requested to submit portfolios of evidence (POEs) to support their applications and to prove years of experience and adoptions related trainings they may have attended.

Draft regulations for the following areas of specialisations: adoption, clinical, forensic, occupational, social work in health care, social work supervision and school social work, have been developed and comments invited from the sector. Council gave comments which were incorporated in the final draft. The Professional Board is busy finalising the criteria for these specialisations and the final draft regulations will be presented to Council for approval during their meeting of 20 & 30 April 2019.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy inputs from the sector including online training have been incorporated and the draft document will be circulated for broader comments once standard operating procedures and guidelines are approved early in April 2019.

During the Professional Board meeting held in July 2018 the Professional Board raised a concern about the poor quality of the learning materials developed for social auxiliary work at NQF Level 5. During this meeting, a resolution was taken that three experts in the field will assist with the final assessment of the material before it is approved. The Professional Board is pleased to announce that HWSETA has appointed a new developer and is busy rewriting the learning material.

The Professional Board commended the Professional Conduct department for clearing the backlog of 18 Disciplinary Hearings from 2015 and 2016. Professional Conduct Dispute and Appeals Procedure and

Protocol has been finalised and the Professional Board is reviewing it, once approved by the Professional Board it will be presented to Council and circulated to the sector for comments. Be on the lookout for that.

The Professional Board has drafted a response to the scope of Practice of Psychologists which overlaps to the scope of practise for social workers. This response will be presented to Council and will be circulated to the sector to note the work done so far. The final document will be shared with key stakeholders: Department of Health, Department of Social Development, HPCSA and Competition Commission in relation to the Act and the definition of a health care practitioner and the impact on the role of social workers.

The Professional Board concluded its meeting by expressing appreciation to the Members and staff for their participation and wished all social work professionals a happy World Social Day on 19 March 2019.

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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.