



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 42nd MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

6 June 2019

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 42nd meeting from 21 to 22 May 2019 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on a variety of matters related to its core mandate.

The Professional Board noted the challenge faced by the finance division in allocating unidentified payments which result in registrants not being in good standing because their annual subscription is not captured and therefore no practice card can be issued. The Professional Board is urging all registrants to always use their registration number as a reference when making payments to Council.

During this meeting the amended policy on 'fit and proper' requirement was approved by the Professional Conduct Committee and circulated to the Professional Board for review and will be submitted to Council for approval. The Professional Board noted with appreciation the cleared disciplinary hearing backlog and the reduced number of current cases.

It was reported that as of 6 May 2019, 32 344 social workers, 11 105 social auxiliary workers, 17 112 student social workers and 11 425 student social auxiliary workers were registered with Council. Registration department processed 1 495 restoration applications in the 2018/2019 financial year and issued 1034 status reports. 2385 certificates were returned during 2018/2019 financial year. The Professional Board is urging applicants to act on the communication they receive from Council regarding the status of their applications.

The Professional Board noted with appreciation the progress made with annual report and approval by Council of the regulations for specialties in clinical social work, forensic social work, and occupational social work as well as the draft Regulations for school social work, supervision in social work and social work in health care which will be submitted to the Minister of Social Development to publish in the Government Gazette for public comment. Council also approved the Assessment of International Qualifications and Registration Policy that was submitted by the Professional Board for Social Work.

The Education, training and development committee worked on the quality assurance tools for Bachelor of Social Work qualification and the Professional Board is reviewing this document before it is submitted to Council for approval.

The current status regarding Department of Social Development adoption was noted and will continue to be monitored until a mutually satisfactory arrangement is reached.

During the Professional Board meeting held in July 2018 the Professional Board raised a concern about the poor quality of the learning material developed for social auxiliary work at NQF Level 5 and HWSETA appointed a new developer to rewrite the learning material. Currently there is no approved social auxiliary worker learning material within the sector and a moratorium will be placed on the approval of new training providers.

The Professional Board concluded its meeting by expressing appreciation to the Members and staff for their wonderful participation and cooperation during this meeting.

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.