



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 39TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

REF: 2/2/1/4/8

23 July 2018

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 39th meeting on 18 and 19 July 2018 in Pretoria, Gauteng. The meeting focused amongst other things on general aspects related to specialisations and has looked at clinical, forensic, social work in health care and adoption specialisations regulations. Feedback on these specialisations will be reviewed by the Professional Board and be presented to Council in September 2018.

As social service professionals work with vulnerable portions of the population (like children and the elderly) the Professional Board took a resolution that social work and social auxiliary students should be screened prior to their registration with Council.

The Professional Board noted the policy guidelines for course of conduct, code of ethics and the rules for social workers document that was circulated on 17 July 2018 with due date for inputs on or before 10 August 2018. The Professional Board is looking forward to inputs from the sector.

As was mentioned in ThisWeek@Council (06 July 2018) international qualifications were assessed on 4 to 5 July 2018; the Professional Board confirmed that successful candidates' oral interview will be conducted by end of September 2018. Those who applied are reminded to check for communication from Council in this regard.

The social work scope of practice has been reviewed and approved by the Professional Board for Social Work for public consultation. The office of the Minister of Social Development will be apprised and comments from the sector will be requested - be on the lookout for this. The Professional Board reviewed and incorporated all the inputs that were received from the sector on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy. The CPD assessment panel will then test the assessment criteria for group activities on this policy during the August and September 2018 meeting.

During its previous meeting the Professional Board raised a concern about the poor quality of the learning materials 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. HWSETA will provide guidance to the office for subject matter experts who will be invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae (CVs) to the Education, Training and Development Manager at email address etdmanager@sacssp.co.za.

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 public and private sectors, including NGOs, NPOs, on supervision which is pitched at level 8 (120 credits). The Department has consulted with relevant stakeholders and will present this to the Council for Higher Education for accreditation. More developments about this programme will be shared once they are made available.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Public Relations and Marketing Officer

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 | Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

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.