



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

24 July 2023

STATEMENT OF THE 57TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 57th meeting from 30 to 31 May 2023 in Pretoria. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 56th meeting held on 7 March 2023. The issue of transformation in social work, unemployment of social workers, social workers migrating to other countries and NPOs closing down was also discussed.

The Chairperson of the Professional Board for Social Work reported on the following matters were tabled at 67th meeting of Council:

- Recommendation of the Professional Board for Social Work to organise an integrated social service professions conference during the tenure of this current Council and the two Professional Boards was considered and it was resolved that that the ETD Committee of Council, ETD Committees of the Professional Boards prepare a concept note and proposed plan in this regard for consideration by Council during its 68th meeting.
- The feedback correspondence received from the Department of Social Development on the eight revised (amended) and new draft Regulations for specialties in social work were noted following the publication of these draft Regulations by Government Notice No. R. 582 in the Government Gazette No. 43343 of 22 May 2020 for public comments, and that Council resolved to resubmit these Regulations with explanatory memorandums by June 2023 so as to provide context to the need for the establishment and regulation of specialties in social work.
- The *Ecometrics Task Team* of the Professional Board for Social Work established under the 4th Professional Board to recognise and approve ecometrics instruments in social work to be revived to conclude on the task.
- Council resolved, following the recommendation of the Professional Board for Social Work, that General Regulations for social service professionals in private practice be developed by Council in terms section 28(1)(a) and (f) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 as to regulated private practice of social service professionals.

Professional Board was apprised on the following matters pertaining to *registration of social workers and social auxiliary workers*:

- The Professional Board noted that total of 82 applications from unemployed social service professionals for exemption from paying annual fees were received in terms of regulation 3(b) of the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers* (2022) of which 72 applicants qualified and were exempted for the next financial year. The remaining

ten applicants did not qualify as they did not meet the requirements as per the Regulations. All applicants were informed on the outcome of their applications.

- The current technical challenges regarding the new online registration system not issuing digital certificates and practice cards; and no option for dual application for registration (as social worker and child and youth care worker); and that these are continuously addressed as the new system is being implemented.

The PBSW received the following update with regards to the *education, training and development of social workers and social auxiliary workers*:

- University of Limpopo and Walter Sisulu University submitted their assessment reports for quality assurance site visits in terms of the qualifications offered in social work. The quality assurance panel was scheduled to meet in June 2023. University of Zululand is expected to submit their self-assessment report by 31 July 2023, whereafter the date for quality assurance site visits will be determined.
- Applications by training institutions for the review and approval (accreditation) of learning programmes in social work were received from North West University for a Bachelors in Social Work as well as a Masters in Social Work, and from UNISA for a Masters in Social Work. The Professional Board did not approve the Bachelor in Social Work from the North West University yet and a letter of support was issued to enable the training institution to send their application to Council on Higher Education. The Professional Board did approve Masters in Social Work for the North West University as well as for UNISA in terms of section 14B(c)(i) of the Act by the Professional Board for Social Work. (Note: The Professional Boards are responsible to review all qualifications from time to time as to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements needed for a person to be registered as a social worker or social auxiliary worker)
- Applications from external individuals (specialists) who applied to serve on the new CPD panel were received and the applications were circulated to the Professional Board for Social Work for assessment; applicants will receive feedback once the process is finalised.

The Professional Board for Social Work was apprised on the *professional conduct* related work as follows:

- The revised code of ethics document is being finalised, and will be shared soon.
- The need to develop a Notice of Appeal in line with the update received from the National Department of Social Development who is in the process of developing the standard operating procedure for section 25 of the Act appeal processes.

The Professional Board for Social Work concluded its 57th meeting by expressing appreciation to Members for a fruitful meeting and the Secretariat for their supportive work.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) is an autonomous statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 ("the Act"). The SACSSP discharges its mandate, subject to the provisions of the Act together with the Regulations and Rules thereto, as the determining, guiding and directing authority body for the social service professions of social work and child and youth care work in the country. The SACSSP fulfils this role through Council constituted in terms of section 5 of the Act and the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work established in terms of section 14A of the Act and constituted in terms of the applicable Regulations, by setting the standards for education and training of social service professionals (qualifications and continuous professional development); registration of social service professionals as a

requirement to practice; setting standards for and exercise effective control over the professional conduct (including ethics) of social service professionals as well as by taking policy resolutions as guidelines for the practising of the social service professions under its auspices. Thus, protecting the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. It is a legal requirement in terms of the Act for a social worker, social auxiliary worker, student social worker, student social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker, auxiliary child and youth care worker, student child and youth care worker and student auxiliary child and youth care worker to be registered and in good standing in terms of his or her registration as condition to practise.