



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

24 July 2023

STATEMENT OF THE 50TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work held its 50th meeting on 7 and 8 June 2023 in Pretoria. The Chairperson of the Professional Board's opening remarks acknowledged the two commemorations which took place since the previous meeting namely the *International Child and Youth Care Worker's Week* which was commemorated from 1 to 7 May 2023 and the *Child Protection Week* which was celebrated from 28 May to 4 June 2023.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work reflected challenges that were raised during its 3rd Summit of Child and Youth Care Work in May 2023, and the 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work endorsed three workstreams that were established by the 3rd Professional Board focus on the following:

- Sector human resource plan alignment including the integrated OSD approach;
- Access to higher education and capacity building for Higher Education Institutions; and
- District Development Model.

The Professional Board designated Mr Lucky Jacobs as an additional member to serve on its Education, Training and Development Committee. The Professional Board's Education, Training and Development Committee apprised the Professional Board on the following:

- Seven continuing professional development (CPD) applications were assessed of which three were approved, while three CPD appeals against the decision of the CPD Panel received of which one was rejected and two were suspended due to lack of supporting documents
- The Committee finalised the quality assurance policy for child and youth care work qualifications as well as the quality assurance tool for bachelor's degrees in child and youth care work for consideration by the Professional Board. Similarly, the Committee finalised the norms and standards for auxiliary child and youth care workers as well as the quality assurance tool for qualifications in auxiliary child and youth care work
- The Professional Board agreed to review the child and youth care work *Portfolio of Evidence* questionnaire being used to ensure that SACSSP assess the skills and experience rather than only theoretical knowledge

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work received a presentation from a Member of Council, Mr André Viviers, reflecting on how the Professional Board and the child and youth care work sector can draw lessons learnt in the early childhood development (ECD) sector in particular relating to interaction between the qualifications (supply) and employment (demand) for child and youth care workers at a degree level, the manner in which qualifications for professions is established through the Council on Higher Education, Higher Education Institutions, and other bodies in terms of the demand within the sector to employed qualified professionals; the role of Government as an employer, regulator of services in line with policies, and requiring and enabling civil society service delivery organisations to employ child and youth care workers after they exit with a degree; the role of Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work statutory body with sanction to act within its statutory mandate, and in the interest of the profession to inform, guide, regulate, impose sanctions and be catalytic. He concluded by emphasising that the central to this work on qualifications in child and youth care work is to have appropriately qualified persons for services by child and youth care workers to children and families at the centre. The Professional Board agreed to review the demand and supply document that was

shared by the Department of Social Development, which will be followed by the preparation of a position paper that will be submitted to the Office of the Minister.

A presentation on the pledge made by the *National School of Government* on advancing the child and youth care work sector with various trainings was warmly welcomed by the Professional Board. More details on this will be shared with the sector once both parties have agreed on an implementation plan for this opportunity.

The Professional Board revisited the implications of the impending removal from Register in terms of section 20(1) of Act (deregistration) of auxiliary child and youth care workers who registered with SACSSP using job descriptions and letters of employment, subject to the provisions of regulation 17(4) of the *Regulations for child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers*. The Professional Board resolved that this matter be escalated and that an update on this matter will be provided in due course.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work concluded its meeting by thanking all members for their presence and active participation

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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 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.