



International Child and Youth Care Week 2024

Celebrating Relational Child & Youth Care Practice: Connecting around the World

#CYCWeek2024 #SACSSP

Message from the **CHAIRPERSON**

of the 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work



This year the child and youth care profession celebrate **International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week** under the theme "*Celebrating Relational Child & Youth Care Practice: Connecting around the World*". This theme emphasises the commitment of the child and youth care work profession to the development of good practice globally.

This is the week in which we highlight the role of child and youth care workers and the "how" of child and youth care work which makes the profession unique in the manner we provide services to children and youth. The development of child and youth care work in South Africa is shared nationally and globally on how the child and youth care work profession in our country has developed over time and found its place in a number of settings.

In addition to the celebration that will be happening in the various provinces, and in the government and NGO sectors, the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work will also join the celebrations by showcasing the growth of the profession under the topic "Breaking new grounds in relational child and youth care work".

In all settings where child and youth care work services are rendered, relational practice remains central. The presence and the being of a child and youth care worker and how he or she uses themselves in interactions with children is the essence of child and youth care work practice. The development of a trusting relationship between the child and the child and youth care worker is the vehicle for the child to accept the services provided by a child and youth care worker. From there on, it is the nurturing of this relationship which has the power to create hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

As we all embark on this celebration, let us remember that the child must always be at the centre of all our activities. We remember too that it is through relational work that we are able to help the child to their real being, and to making the most of their life.

This celebration is dedicated to all the child and youth care workers. This is the time that we dedicate to the recognition and the commitment of all the unsung heroes and heroines who have touched and changed lives of young people in our country and abroad. We celebrate the child and youth care practitioners for their contribution to making our country and the world a better place. We recognise their sacrifices and the struggles that they go through to care for young people.

Donald Nghonyama
Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work



Scan the QR codes and connect



Download the *CYC-Online May 2024* (No. 303) on Celebrating Relational Child and Youth Care Practice: Around the World
#CYCWeek2024



CONNECT with the *International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net)* for information sharing, discussion, networking, support and accountable practice amongst all who work with children, youth and families in difficulty across the world.
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