



# SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALISATION PROGRAMME

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Community Development Practitioners with adequate information and answers pertaining to the professionalisation of the Community Development sector.

**1. Wondering what happened with the Community Development Practitioners' information, which were previously registered on the Department of Social Development database?**

Practitioners' information was migrated into the Online Registration and Verification Form administered by the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). Unique reference numbers were issued to all practitioners that registered their personal e-mail addresses in the Department of Social Development database. Practitioners with no registered personal e-mail addresses did not receive unique reference numbers due to the absence of their e-mail addresses.

**2. Who is eligible to use the Community Development Online Registration and Verification form?**

All practicing Community Development Practitioners as per section 5 of the Regulations regarding the Election and Appointment of Members of a Professional Board.

**3. What is the purpose of the Online Registration and Verification form?**

To assist practitioners to:

- a. Edit or verify their personal information in the Online Data Verification and Registration Form;
- b. Register their information in the Online Registration and Verification Form.

**4. Should I participate in the re-launch of the Online Registration and Verification Form?**

Yes. The Online Registration and Verification form used in 2022 was amended and all practicing Community Development Practitioners are therefore being requested to participate in the re-launch of the Online Registration and Verification form. Additional practitioner information is required in the current online form. Compliance to this request is critical in ensuring that all practicing practitioners are eligible to participate in the nomination and election of members of the Professional Board for Community Development Work.

**5. I edited, verified or registered my personal information in the Online Registration and Verification form and did not receive a unique reference number. How can I obtain my unique reference number?**

- a. Check the "Junk mail" and "Spam" of your personal e-mail address;
- b. Submit an e-mail to the following email address to obtain your unique reference number:

[Communitydevelopment@sacssp.co.za](mailto:Communitydevelopment@sacssp.co.za)

**6. Why did I not receive a unique reference number from the South African Council for Social Service Professions?**

- a. Probably the security settings linked to your employer's Information Technology (IT) blocked the delivery of your unique reference number;
- b. Community Development Practitioners loaded incorrect e-mail addresses in the Online Data Verification and Registration Form.

**7. How will practitioners benefit from the edited, verified and registered information, that they have loaded in the Online Registration and Verification form?**

All the edited, verified and registered information will be used to compile a voters' roll for the nomination and election processes of the first Professional Board for Community Development Work. All practitioners registered on the voter's roll will be eligible to participate in the nomination and election process of the first Professional Board for Community Development Work. Eligible practitioners are regarded as:

- a. Practitioners who registered their personal information on the Online Registration and Verification form;
- b. Practitioners who verified their personal information on the Online Registration and Verification form;
- c. Practitioners who were practicing Community Development by the time they verified and registered their personal information on the Online Registration and Verification form. This is applicable to practitioners volunteering as Community Development Work and offering Community Development in private practice settings.

**8. What are the next steps that should be taken for the Professionalisation of the Community Development sector?**

- a. Step one: Development of a coordinated database of Community Development Practitioners across the sectors (e.g. Public, Private, NPO, FBO, HEIs, TVETs, etc.);
- b. Step two: Development of a verified voters' roll for eligible members to participate in the election process;
- c. Step three: Voter education to prepare for the nomination and election process;
- d. Step four: Request for nominations from the Community Development sector;
- e. Step five: Holding of the national election;
- f. Step six: Gazetting the names of the elected and appointed professional board members;
- g. Step seven: Inauguration of the elected and appointed members to serve on the Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners;
- h. Step eight: Holding of the 1st meeting of the professional board;
- i. Step nine: Establishment of committees and task teams of the Professional Board;
- j. Step ten: Rules and Regulations to be made in terms of section 27 and 28 of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978;
- k. Step eleven: Registration of Community Development Practitioners with the SACSSP;

**9. Why is registration with South African Council for Social Service Professions important?**

- a. It provides Community Development Practitioners with a license to practice;
- b. It regulates the Community Development designations and scope of practice.
- c. When you are certified for a qualification in Community Development, you become respected as a professional.
- d. Educational certification alone does not provide you with a license to practice Community Development. Persons who are not registered as Community Development Practitioners with the SACSSP will not be allowed to practice Community Development.
- e. When you are registered as a Community Development Practitioner you systematically gain access to knowledge and skills.
- f. You are legally obliged to adhere to your professional code of ethics set by the SACSSP.
- g. Your clients are protected against any unethical practices and misconduct.
- h. Through your registration with the SACSSP, you gain international recognition for the profession within which you are practicing.
- i. Your peers recognize that you are meeting the minimum requirements associated with your profession.
- j. You are respected within multi-disciplinary teams.
- k. You will perform duties unique to the scope of practice of your profession.
- l. By maintaining continuing professional development, employers are confident that you are knowledgeable about current trends within your profession.

**10. When will the professional registration at the South African Council for Social Service Professions commence?**

On establishment of the first Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners and once the Minister of Social Development approved the Regulations regarding the registration of Community Development Practitioners in terms of section 28(1)(i) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978 as amended.

**11. What will be the requirements to register as a Community Development Practitioner on the South African Council for Social Service Professions database?**

The requirements shall be prescribed in the Regulations regarding the registration of Community Development Practitioners to be made by the Minister of Social Development in terms of section 28(1)(a)(i) of the Act as amended.

**12. Who can offer Community Development qualifications?**

Any Council on Higher Education or Quality Council for Trades and Occupations accredited college or university can offer Community development qualifications.

**13. Where can one register to study for a qualification in Community Development?**

Any person can register at accredited universities and colleges offering Community Development qualifications. A list will be published once the Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners is in place.

**14. Will current practicing Community Development Practitioners without prescribed qualification register with the SACSSP when the Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners?**

A qualification serves a minimum requirement for registration; however, the Regulations regarding the registration of Community Development Practitioners to be made in terms of section 28(1)(a)(i) of the Act may provide for current practicing Community Development Practitioners without the prescribed qualification to register through Recognition of Prior Learning or provide for conditional registration for a specific period to enable a person to obtain the prescribed qualification. Any person to be affected or having an interest on this matter will have the opportunity to submit inputs when the draft Regulations on the registration of Community Development Practitioners are published for public comments.

**15. How will the South African Council for Social Service Professions assist Community Development Practitioners with no qualifications in Community Development?**

The assistance of this nature falls outside the mandate of the SACSSP; however, the SACSSP will continue to lobby and encourage relevant stakeholders, including employers of Community Development Practitioners to provide affected Community Development Practitioners with the necessary support to study and obtain the prescribe qualifications. may

**16. Does the South African Council for Social Service Professions provide mechanisms to ensure that registered practitioners undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities?**

Yes, through the South African Council for Social Service Professions Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy. The Professional Board will establish its own CPD panel to assess training material from skills development providers or training consultants in the field of community development and community development related fields.

**17. Will Continuing Professional Development (CPD) be applicable to Community Development Practitioners?**

Yes, it will be applicable once the Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners has been established.

**18. Will the South African Council for Social Service Professions assist Community Development Practitioners to get employment?**

No, the core mandate of the SACSSP is to guide and regulate professions such as Social Work, Child and Youth Care Work and professions for whom professional boards have been established. The SACSSP regulate aspects pertaining to professional conduct, registration, education, training and development of practitioners as promulgated in the Social Service Professions Act, No. 110 of 1978, as amended.

**19. How will Community Development Practitioners receive information from the South African Council for Social Service Professions?**

Information will be distributed via the official communication channels of the SACSSP. Practitioners

should ensure that their contact details are correctly loaded on the SACSSP database and to remember to always update their particulars each time they relocate or change postal addresses, emails or cellular phone numbers.

**20. Will registered Community Development Practitioners be allowed to join labour unions, professional associations and political parties?**

Yes, any person has the right to form, join or associate with any labour union professional association or a political party in their personal capacity.

**21. Can a person with a criminal record register within the South African Council for Social Service Professions?**

Yes, however due diligence will be conducted by the fit and proper panel of the South African Council for Social Service Professions before a recommendation to be registered can be given.

**22. What proof will Community Development practitioners get to indicate that they are officially registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions?**

Practitioners will receive a registration certificate and a practice card.

**23. Will registered Community Development Practitioners be expected to pay an annual fee whilst being unemployed?**

Any person registered with the SACSSP is liable to pay the prescribed annual fee. Where a person is unable to pay the annual fee, because he/she is unemployed he/she should apply for an exemption. Unemployed persons qualify for 100% exemption. A person who is exempted from paying the annual fee will be issued with a practice card and enjoy the same privileges as a registered person; however, that person is not allowed to practice, unless he/she pays the full annual fee within 30 days of obtaining a job.

**24. What will happen if practitioners don't pay their annual fee on time?**

The name of a person who has failed to pay the annual fee will be removed from the register in terms of section 20(1)(d) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978 as amended. The person whose name has been removed from the register is not allowed to practice as a Community Development Practitioner, until such time that he/she successfully apply for restoration in terms of section 20(3) of the Act and pay the restoration fee and the applicable annual fee(s). Any person who practice without registration will be in contravention of section 15 of the Act and shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

**25. What is the difference between a registration fee, an annual fee and restoration fee?**

A registration fee is a once-off payment to be made when a person registers with the SACSSP for a specific professional category. An annual fee is payable annually by registered person on or before 1 January each year. A restoration fee is a once-off payment to be made by a person who apply for restoration.

**26. Is it possible to have dual or multiple registration with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (e.g. registration as Child and Youth Care Worker, Social Worker and Community Development Practitioner)?**

Yes, dual or multiple registration is possible. Dual or multiple registered practitioners will have to pay dual annual or multiple registration fees for each profession they are registered for.

**For enquiries, please contact the Coordinator for Community Development, Ms. A.C. Williams** by sending an email to [Communitydevelopment@sacssp.co.za](mailto:Communitydevelopment@sacssp.co.za) or call 012-356 8300 and request for extension 74.