



# SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The e-Bulletin is a monthly informal communiqué to persons registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and other stakeholders.

# AUGUST 2019

## From the desk of the Registrar



This month I start part one of a three part series on ethics and general responsibilities for social service practitioners.

I salute all women of our country, especially those we do not connect with because they appear to have insignificant roles – the domestic workers who are working mums who are forced to leave their own children in a quest to make a living so they can raise their own families. I want all of us to recognise those women on whose bent backs, many children (both black and white), some of who are today's leaders, have been nurtured and given love and assurance of safety. I urge all young women, to stand firm in their beliefs and know that they are special human beings who deserve love and respect.

Ethics are regarded generally as a code of thinking and behaviour governed by a combination of personal, moral, legal and social standards of what is right. Ethics involves acceptable guiding principles that govern relationships.

As social service practitioners, we take a sworn declaration to:

- not harm other human beings especially vulnerable end users of our services.
- respect people (treat people as unique individuals)
- respect people's ability to play a meaningful role in determining what they need (the right to self-determination)
- respect everyone's human, civil or legal rights (non-discrimination and cultural sensitivity)

As practitioners, we are aware that we can never impose our own values on others. It is therefore important for one to introspect and keep his/her values in check when attending to clients. We must always endeavour to do what is best for everyone, under the right circumstances. We must remember that it is unethical to abuse our positions or exploit people to gain advantage, or to exercise power over another person (soliciting bribes, coercion especially in cases involving children). It is an absolute no-no to attempt intervention in areas in which you are not trained or competent; and to use a designated title for which you are not registered such as child and youth care worker, social worker, and social auxiliary worker. As practitioners we are sworn to mandatory reporting, i.e. reporting any instance of suspected child physical or sexual abuse, and domestic violence.

Part two will address the ethical issues to consider when working with communities. The last part will look at the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution and netiquette challenges.

Langi Malamba

## Quote

for the month

A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform. - Diane Mariechild

## What's on for social service professionals

**August** is Women's Month

**20 to 21 August** - Professional Board for Social Work will have its 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting

**29 to 30 August** - Professional Board for Child and Youth Care will have its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting

**29 to 31 October** - The 34<sup>th</sup> FICE International Congress: *Better Future Opportunities for Children and Young People in Multicultural Societies*, Tel Aviv, Israel. Find more information [here](#).

**15 to 18 July October 2020** - SWSD 2020: *The Global Social Work Agenda – The Next Ten Years* (IFSW), Calgary, Canada. Find more information [here](#).

**SHARE** your important date or event in this column by sending an email before the end of any month to: [communications@sacssp.co.za](mailto:communications@sacssp.co.za)

## RESOURCE Corner

*This month we share a few open access journals with you.*

**Child & Family Social Work** provides a forum where researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and managers in the field exchange knowledge, increase understanding and develop notions of good practice. In its promotion of research and practice, which is both disciplined and articulate, the Journal is dedicated to advancing the wellbeing and welfare of children and their families throughout the world. Child & Family Social Work publishes original and distinguished contributions on matters of research, theory, policy and practice in the field of social work with children and their families. The Journal gives international definition to the discipline and practice of child and family social work. Find out more [here](#).

**Relational Child & Youth Care Practice e-journal** (formerly the *Journal of Child and Youth Care*) is published by CYC-NET annually, promoting and supporting the profession of Child and Youth Care through disseminating the knowledge and experience of individuals involved in the day-to-day lives of young people. You can access the August 2019 issue [here](#).

**The International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies** journal is a peer reviewed, open access, interdisciplinary, cross-national journal that is committed to scholarly excellence in the field of research about and services for children, youth, families and their communities. It is published by the University of Victoria. Find out more [here](#).

**Journal of Sociology and Social Work** is a scholarly international journal in its fields. The journal is a leading voice for analysis and research in the social sciences. The journal also publishes articles that promote debate and analyze current themes and issues in social work theory, research, policy and practice. The journal follows double-blind peer review process. Find out more [here](#).

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# 3 questions to ELWIN GALLANT

Member of the South African Council for Social Service Professions



## Tell us who is Elwin Gallant the person?

I completed a Master's Degree in Social Work in 1992 at the University of Port Elizabeth and also completed the National Diploma in Child and Youth Care (cum laude) in 2002 at Technikon SA. I am currently employed as a Social Worker with Social Development Port Elizabeth. I also work in residential child and youth care and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I have been actively involved with the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) since 1991. I am currently serving as the National Chairperson of the NACCW and also a Member of the SACSSP representing the child and youth care sector. I view myself as a humble servant leader who focuses his energy and time on advocating for those who cannot speak for

themselves, the poor and vulnerable members of society and I am striving to be bright in the corner where I am.

## What is the biggest highlight in your career as a social worker?

A highlight of my career was the attendance of the Commonwealth Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland during 1997 with a group of young people from the Eastern Cape. I had the privilege to meet the then important world leaders like the UN Secretary General, the British Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth amongst others who came to receive the presentation of the children and interacted informally with the children and young people. This was a significant moment where I could participate in workshops on child protection and helping children to share their views on to create a better world for them.

## You are registered as a social worker and a child and youth care worker. How do you integrate these two professions in your work life?

My experience in the residential care made me realise that I also need to upskill myself in the field of child and youth care work and to be able to lead the multi-disciplinary team in connecting and sharing their roles towards the development and growth of young people. I feel I am blessed and multi skilled to work in the various therapeutic milieus of children and young people and to give guidance to both child and youth care workers and social workers in the field. I think social workers and child and youth care workers can share a complimentary role in the field of prevention and early intervention programmes to make a greater impact on child protection in our country.

## LAW talk for social service professionals

In this edition we look at South African court system. Many social service practitioners are exposed some time or another to one or more of these courts. Courts are established in terms of section 166 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which allows for:

The **Constitutional Court** is the highest court on all constitutional matters and hears matters only after a judgment has already been handed down by another court

The **Supreme Court of Appeal** deals exclusively with appeals against rulings. Except for the Constitutional Court, it is the highest court in South Africa and it only deals with cases sent to it from the High Court. No other court, except for the Constitutional Court, can change a decision made by the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The **High Court** consists out of 15 divisions each presiding over a different jurisdiction in the country. These courts hear serious matters that the lower courts would not be able to make an appropriate judgment or to impose a penalty. *Circuit courts* are also part of the High Court system and move around the country to serve more rural areas.

**Magistrates' Courts** are the lower courts which deal with less serious criminal and civil cases. They are divided into *Regional Courts*, which only deal with criminal cases, and *Ordinary Magistrates' Court* (also known as District Courts), which deal with criminal and civil cases. In Criminal Courts the state prosecutes people for breaking the law.

**Other Courts** that are established or recognised in terms of an Act of Parliament, including: income tax courts, the Labour Court and the Labour Appeal Court, the Land Claims Court, the Competition Appeal Court, the Electoral Court, Divorce Courts, Small Claims Courts, Military Courts and Equality Court.

*These are our courts!*

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## LOCAL & international NEWS

### SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE STRENGTHENING TOOLKIT

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance has created the *Social Service Workforce Strengthening Toolkit* with support from UNICEF to guide national participatory processes of planning, developing and supporting the social service workforce. These tools are intended to guide efforts toward a stronger social service workforce.

Toolkit components:

- Guidance Note on defining the Social Service Workforce (in draft)
- Results Matrix for Social Service Workforce Strengthening (in draft)
- Social Service Workforce Mapping Toolkit - intended to guide participatory, national level analyses of the social service workforce
- Guidance Note on Developing a Ratio of Social Service Workers to Child Population (in draft)
- Compilation of Resources to Strengthen the Para Professional Social Service Workforce - a curated list of resources specifically relevant to planning, developing and supporting the para professional workforce
- Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection - informed by evidence of 'what works' and lessons learned in the field, these guidelines developed by UNICEF and the Alliance are designed to accelerate social service workforce strengthening: [Down here](#)

### SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT

**TARGET GROUP**

- Social work managers
- senior social workers
- supervisors as well as managers of institutions or projects.

**CPD Provider and facilitator:**  
Estie Groenewald  
**Co-facilitator:**  
Una Blomerus

**SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS FOR 2019**

02-05 April 2019	Johannesburg
13-16 May 2019	Durban
20-23 May	Cape Town
04-07 June 2019	Bloemfontein
11-14 June 2019	Potokwane
13-16 August 2019	Port Elizabeth
26-29 August 2019	Middelburg Mpumalanga
02-05 September 2019	Kimberley
16-19 September 2019	Ladysmith KZN
14-17 October 2019	Klerkorp
04-07 November 2019	Pretoria

VENUES WILL BE CONFIRMED ASAP

All Participants will receive a manual on supervision that includes documents and resources to utilize in practice.  
tea/coffee and refreshments as well as a light lunch

**WORKSHOP FEE R3 300 PER PERSON**  
To register, please complete the attached registration form and email it to Lizanne on [info@estiegroenewald.co.za](mailto:info@estiegroenewald.co.za) with proof of payment of at least 10 days before commencement of the specific workshop  
Dr Estie Groenewald | [info@estiegroenewald.co.za](mailto:info@estiegroenewald.co.za)

## Short Advertisement

### WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Closing date:** 19 August 2019

**Remuneration:** R1 521 591 per annum (Level 15) (All inclusive package to be structured in accordance with the rules for SMS) plus a 10% non-pensionable HOD allowance.

**Reference Number:** DSD 2019- 75

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