



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 43RD MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

30 September 2019

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 43rd meeting from 20 to 21 August 2019 in Pretoria. The Professional Board elected a new chairperson and a deputy chairperson since Dr Marie Kruger resigned as chairperson due to other pressing commitments. Ms Sharon Follentine, who was the deputy chairperson, was elected as the Chairperson of the Professional Board and Ms Ida Strydom as the Deputy Chairperson.

Professional Board for Social Work noted that 220 social workers, 230 social auxiliary workers, 511 student social workers, 401 student social auxiliary workers registered with Council during the first quarter (April to June) 2019 and that during the same period 115 social workers registered for specialities in social work (adoption, occupational and probation social work). The Professional Board took a resolution that all social workers registered for speciality with Council's will be subjected to compliance audits and notices will be issued to those who do not comply.

The Professional Board confirmed the decision taken during the meeting with the National Department of Social Development on 27 June 2019 regarding *Code of good practice and responsibilities of employers of social service practitioners* that needs to be consulted nationally. It was also noted that the *Code of good practice* provides for Council to investigate employers and the outcome of such investigations would be in a form of nonbinding recommendation until such time the draft Social Service Practitioners Bill is finalised and approved. The amended policy on 'fit and proper' requirement was approved by the Professional Board and the Professional Board agreed that it is important to consult with the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work on this policy it has bearing on the registration of child and youth care workers. The policy will be submitted to the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work for comments and consideration before it is submitted to Council for final approval. The Professional Board noted the importance of reviewing the policy guidelines for course of conduct parallel with the code of ethics and rules relating to acts or omissions of social service professionals which shall constitute unprofessional or improper conduct. A joint task team composing of Members of the Professional Conduct Committees of both Professional Boards was formed to finalise the three documents by end September 2019.

The education, training and development committee worked on the quality assurance tools for both Bachelor of Social Work qualification and Social Auxiliary Work qualifications. The Professional Board reviewed the Bachelor of Social Work qualification document and the amended quality assurance tool will be submitted to the Professional Board for approval before it is send to Council for final approval. Social auxiliary work qualification quality assurance tool is being finalised and will be submitted to the Professional Board for comments.

The Professional Board noted the progress made on the amended Continuing Professional Development Policy and Continuing Professional Development Guidelines and Standard Operation Procedure. Amended documents with all comments will be finalised soon and be submitted to the Professional Board for approval before they are served before Council for final approval at their meeting in September 2019.

Based on the new curriculum requirements, a resolution was taken by the Professional Board that an NQF level 8 qualification will be regarded as the only qualification that will inform the registration of an international certified social worker with Council.

The Professional Board concluded its meeting by expressing appreciation to the Members and staff for their contribution in preparation of the fruitful meeting.

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ENQUIRIES:

Communications & Public Relations Practitioner
South African Council for Social Services Professions
37 Annie Botha Avenue, Riviera, Pretoria 0001, South Africa
Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 | Email: communications@sacssp.co.za
Website: <http://www.sacssp.co.za> | Facebook: @OfficialSACSSP | Twitter: @SACSSP1

ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP/ Council) is a statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act No. 110 of 1978 (the Act). Council has two professional boards under its auspices: the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council, in conjunction with its two professional boards, guides and regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration; education and training; professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with professional standards. It protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with Council in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practising social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student child and youth care workers, and student auxiliary child and youth care workers.