



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

REF: 7/6/2

7 May 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTING PRACTICE IN CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK ACROSS THE WORLD: INTERNATIONAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WEEK: 5 TO 12 MAY 2024:

International Child and Youth Care Week 2024 is celebrated globally from 05 to 12 May 2024 under the theme "Celebrating Relational Child and Youth Care Practice: Around the World" (available here: [CYC-Net: The International Child and Youth Care Network](#)). This theme reflects on the connectedness child and youth care workers have in their services to vulnerable families.

In South Africa and around the world child and youth care workers are essential social service workers who provide care, and protection and facilitate developmental and therapeutic interventions in the life space of the child and family. Child and youth care workers use a combination of knowledge, practical experience, and interpersonal communication skills to make a positive difference in the lives of service users. They are mostly found in a variety of settings including residential care, community, court, and school environments. *"The development of a trusting relationship between the child and a 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"*. says the Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work Mr Donald Nghonyama.

Child and youth care workers and auxiliary child and youth care workers are required by law to register with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) in order to be licenced to practise their profession. As at 31 March 2024, 228 child and youth care workers, 9,016 auxiliary child and youth care, 194 student child and youth care workers and 112 student auxiliary child and youth care workers were registered with the SACSSP.

The South African Council for Social Service Professions' Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work will participate in the opening of International Child and Youth Care Week 2024 with an online celebration event on 08 May 2024 creating awareness of the child and youth care work practice settings and honour the work done by those who have dedicated themselves to the development and growth of young people in our communities.

Amongst the key speakers is the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, President of South African Council for Social Service Professions, Professor Paul Mbedzi and the Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work, Mr Donald Nghonyama.

The celebration event will be held as follows:

Date: 08 May 2024

Time: 10h00 to 12h00

Venue: Online (Microsoft Teams): Link to be confirmed upon confirmation of attendance.

Live streaming link will be available on the day under: [SACSSP - YouTube](#)

Members of the media can RSVP by contacting Ms Lungelwa Mbuzo on 073 299 2720

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

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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.