



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

REF: 4/25

5 November 2025

STATEMENT OF THE 57TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PCYCW) held its 57th meeting on 30 September 2025. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board.

General Issues

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work has conducted a review of the Regulations governing child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers. These Regulations will be submitted to Council and then to the National Department of Social Development for public comments.

The Position Paper to the National Department of Social Development that the Professional Board is going to submit was presented. The Position Paper highlights the ongoing challenges affecting the regulation and deployment of child and youth care workers, and to advocate for improved support and policy alignment. Amongst the key challenges identified on this position paper are:

- Poor service delivery to vulnerable children due to systemic issues.
- Inequities in Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) compared to other social service professionals which result in persistent glass ceiling limiting career progression.
- Access to higher education and capacity building for Higher Education Institutions.

Chairperson's report

The Professional Board appreciated the feedback on the activities undertaken by the chairperson as follows;

(a) Support for Postgraduate Diploma Students

The Chairperson attended a strategic meeting with the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) to address funding support for postgraduate diploma students. This initiative, originally established by the previous Professional Board, had secured a commitment from HWSETA to provide bursaries aimed at enhancing the professional development of child and youth care workers.

Due to policy alignment issues, HWSETA was previously unable to fulfil this commitment. However, following recent policy updates, HWSETA is now positioned to fund these students. The Chairperson was requested to draft a letter of support, which received endorsement from DUT. DUT confirmed possession of the list of admitted students who were accepted with the understanding that funding would be available. Funding will be allocated for the current academic year and for a new cohort in the 2026 academic year.

(b) Collaborative Action on EISA Challenges

The Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work participated in two critical meetings addressing the elevated failure rate among auxiliary child and youth care work students in the External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA). This trend poses a risk to the future pipeline of skilled auxiliary child and youth care workers.

The initial meeting involved both Professional Boards, followed by a broader engagement with HWSETA and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). Key outcomes and proposed actions included:

- Learning Material Review: The Professional Boards have completed a review of the learning materials and are awaiting QCTO's feedback for necessary amendments. QCTO will follow up with the relevant department.
- Accountability of Skills Development Practitioners: A meeting will be convened with skills development providers to explore the root causes of the high failure rate and gather recommendations.
- Enhanced Monitoring: HWSETA will strengthen its monitoring systems for skills development providers.
- Timely Result Issuance: QCTO must improve the EISA result issuance process. Results should be released within three months of the examination.
- Access to Past Papers: Students should receive previous question papers from skills development providers, facilitated by HWSETA.
- Lecturer Upskilling: QCTO will appoint a service provider to deliver targeted training for lecturers.

Registration under the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work noted that a total of 8 child and youth care workers, 82 auxiliary child and youth care workers and 65 student auxiliary child and youth care workers were registered between April and June 2025.

The names of 35 auxiliary child and youth care workers were restored in terms of section 20(3) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978.

Professional conduct

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work noted a total 10 complaints of unprofessional conduct lodged against auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers during the period under review. 8 complaints were against auxiliary child and youth care workers and two were against student child and youth care workers. 5 matters were referred to the Professional Conduct Committee and the disciplinary hearings have not been scheduled. The remaining 5 are pending supplementary documentation.

Education, training and development

The PBCYCW approved the following documents;

- Guidelines for the recruitment and appointment of assessors and moderators
- Policy on the assessment of International qualifications and registration for social service professionals

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work received the following update with regards to the education, training and development of child and youth care workers and auxiliary child and youth care workers:

- A total of 3 continuing for professional development (CPD) applications were received of which all three were assessed and approved.

The Professional Board concluded its 57th meeting by appreciating Members for their dedication and Secretariat for the work they do behind the scenes. The next meeting will be held on 17 November 2025.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Lungelwa Mbuzo (Ms) (*Communications and Public Relations Practitioner*)

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) is an autonomous statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 ("the Act"). The SACSSP discharges its mandate, subject to the provisions of the Act together with the Regulations and Rules thereto, as the determining, guiding and directing authority body for the social service professions of social work and child and youth care work in the country. The SACSSP fulfils this role through Council constituted in terms of section 5 of the Act and the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work established in terms of section 14A of the Act and constituted in terms of the applicable Regulations, by setting the standards for education and training of social service professionals (qualifications and continuous professional development); registration of social service professionals as a requirement to practice; setting standards for and exercise effective control over the professional conduct (including ethics) of social service professionals as well as by taking policy resolutions as guidelines for the practising of the social service professions under its auspices. Thus, protecting the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. It is a legal requirement in terms of the Act for a social worker, social auxiliary worker, student social worker, student social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker, auxiliary child and youth care worker, student child and youth care worker and student auxiliary child and youth care worker to be registered and in good standing in terms of his or her registration as condition to practise.