



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON THE 76TH MEETING OF COUNCIL

REF: 3/26

29 May 2026

STATEMENT OF THE 76TH MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS (SACSSP)

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) held its 76th meeting on 22 to 23 April 2026. The discussions centered on the Council's core business during the third and fourth quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, including the status of resolutions and progress achieved. With approximately 15 months remaining in the Fifth Council's term, members reflected on the Council's mandate and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening governance, accountability and professional integrity across the social service sector.

GENERAL MATTERS

Council noted with sadness the passing of **Ms. Patria Maqina**, former member of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. A memorial service was held in Kimberley, with a national virtual service during Child and Youth Care Workers Week.

Council received a comprehensive presentation of the Audit Plan for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 from the external auditors. Key highlights included:

- A risk-based audit approach aligned with international standards.
- Focus on internal controls, compliance, and financial reporting.
- Review of the recent system migration to ensure accuracy and integrity of financial data.
- Consideration of fraud risks, going concern assessments and compliance with the Social Service Professions Act, 1978.
- Identification of six significant risk areas, reduced from eight in the prior year, reflecting improvements in management controls.
- Audit timelines set to ensure submission of audited financial statements to the Minister of Social Development by 30 September 2026.

Council noted the progress with the Board Notice for the Community Development Professional Board which is scheduled for publication in May 2026 latest. It is the Council's position that the responsibility for the constitution of this Professional Board rests primarily with the sector itself.

Council welcomed the publication of the Regulations on Fees Payable by social service professionals in Government Gazette No. R7374 of 17 April 2026. Adjustments to the registration system are being finalised, and a general notice will be issued to ensure clarity for registrants.

REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Council acknowledged Secretariat's dedication in ensuring smooth processes with the online registration system. A significant milestone was the successful launch of the digital practice cards on 13 February 2026, marking a step forward in modernising registration processes. Quarter three registration activities and the nationwide registration drives conducted between 24 February and 26 March 2026 were successful.

For the reporting period, a total 857 social service professionals registered during the quarter. 81 applications were declined due to incomplete documentation or duplication. A total of 191 status reports applications were received and approved, with an additional 104 rolled over from quarter two, all approved. 69 restoration applications processed, including professionals returning after more than five years outside the system and 62 restorations rolled over from quarter two successfully finalised.

Council noted the successful registration drive conducted across all nine provinces between February and March 2026. Services which were offered included:

- On-site registration services at training institutions and Department of Social Development offices.
- Support for both students and practising professionals, including first-time registrants to navigate the online registration system.
- Services such as profile creation, payment processing, migration to the Glue Up system and inquiries on certificates and practice cards.
- a total of 1,400 registration applications were approved.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Council welcomed the report on the capacity building workshops on the Code of Ethics where 355 registrants were reached.

The Professional Conduct division reported a decline in new complaints, with 16 cases received in quarter 3 compared to 55 in quarter 2. A total of 78 complaints were investigated as follows:

- five matters were finalised in terms of regulation 8.
- 20 complaints were referred for further inquiry in terms of regulation 8 of the Regulations regarding the conducting of enquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct.
- 40 matters were closed as the respondents were found not to be in contravention of the Rules relating to the acts or omissions of a social worker, a social auxiliary worker or a student social worker which shall constitute unprofessional or improper conduct.
- two matters are pending supplementary documentation.
- five matters were *referred* as per regulation 7(5) to Professional Conduct Committee for a disciplinary inquiry
- six matters are scheduled for interviews with Respondents.

Four matters were tabled before the CPI Appeals Committee and finalised. The Appeal Committee upheld the decision of the CPI Committee in all matters.

Council was informed of five matters of alleged unprofessional or improper conduct which were tabled before the Professional Conduct Committee, two were finalised; a social worker was found not guilty to all the charges and another social workers' registration suspended for 12 months and three were part heard and one postponed.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Council noted a total of 262 professionals confirmed to have earned continuing professional development (CPD) points. Out of the 262, 232 were social workers and 30 social auxiliary workers.

A total of 133 new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) applications were received for social workers and social auxiliary workers. Of these, 95 applications were assessed. The assessment outcomes were as follows: 89 applications were approved; one was deferred pending submission of additional information and five were not approved due to misalignment with the scope of practice for social work and social auxiliary work. In the category of child and youth care work, seven CPD applications were received, all of which were assessed and approved.

During the reporting period, three new speciality applications were received: two for *Forensic Social Work* and one for *Clinical Social Work*. In total, 33 applications (including those rolled over from the previous quarter) were assessed as follows:

- 20 Clinical Social Work
- 11 Forensic Social Work
- 2 Occupational Social Work

From the assessed applications, seven Clinical Social Work applications were approved, 11 other applications were not approved and 5 are under consideration.

During the reporting period, three quality assurance site visit assessments for the Bachelor of Social Work programme were conducted at the University of Venda, the University of the Western Cape and Hugenote Kollege. In addition, a site visit assessment for the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care Work programme was carried out at the Durban University of Technology.

Council concluded its 76th meeting by thanking all members and Secretariat for a fruitful meeting and urged all Members and Secretariat to remain committed to the mandate of the SACSSP.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

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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.