



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 37TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

26 February 2018

The South African Council for Social Service Professions' Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 37th meeting on 20 and 21 February 2018 in Pretoria, Gauteng. The meeting focused, amongst others on the monitoring of registration of social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers and learner social auxiliary workers; general aspects that relate to the profession and specialisations; scope of practice and supervision; and professional conduct case management.

The Professional Board for Social Work was presented with the registration statistics per province as to assist with its planning for the next financial year. The Professional Board agreed that it will conduct roadshows on ethics and other social work related matters, which will also include visits to universities around the curriculum and quality assurance. More details on roadshows will be communicated soon.

The required rubric for the Professional Board's approved criteria for specialisation in clinical social work, will be developed by end of March 2018 and taken for approval by Council in April. The Professional Board agreed to request curricula vitae (CVs) from subject matter experts who can participate as assessors and moderators for the registration process of clinical social work as a specialisation.

The Professional Board agreed to engage with Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) as to ascertain what they can offer to support the advancement of skills for social auxiliary work as well as areas of specialisation in social work. Furthermore, it was agreed that quality assurance of training being offered by service providers offering continuing professional development (CPD) will also be undertaken during the next months.

The Professional Board noted the backlog on disciplinary hearings related to professional conduct and agreed to fast track the finalisation of these cases by 31 July 2018. The *Policy on Fit and Proper Person Requirement* that was approved will be reviewed to be more inclusive of practising social workers. The Professional Board agreed that the draft Policy Guideline for Course of Conduct, Code of Ethics and the Rules for Social Workers will be circulated for comments. Furthermore, recognising the important role that employers play in ensuring conducive work environments that will enable social workers and other social service professionals to execute their work as required by law and their codes of ethics, the approved draft Code of Good Practice and Responsibilities of Employers of Social Service Professionals will be circulated for comments as well. These documents will be circulated by 2 March to registrants with a request that comments should be submitted by 26 March 2018.

The Professional Board for Social Work concluded its two day meeting by expressing its appreciation (in view of *World Social Justice Day* that was celebrated on 20 February 2018) for the work that is being done by many social workers and other social service professionals to advance social justice in many communities in the country, often under challenging circumstances.

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