



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 2/25

5 November 2025

STATEMENT OF THE 65TH MEETING OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 65th meeting on 16 September 2025. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made during the 1st quarter (April to June 2025) of the 2025/2026 financial year, as follows:

Registration

The PBSW noted that for the period under review:

- A total of 558 social workers, 199 social auxiliary workers, 902 student social workers and 434 student social auxiliary workers were registered with the SACSSP.
- The Restoration Panel approved applications for restoration in terms of section 20(3) of the Act for 55 social workers and 10 social auxiliary workers.
- A total of 332 certificates of status of good standing were issued to social workers upon application.

Professional conduct

- A total 44 new complaints of unprofessional conduct lodged against social workers were lodged during the period under review. There were 277 pending cases in total during the reporting period and the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI) investigated 105 matters, as follows:
 - 6 complaints investigated in terms of regulation 8 of the Regulations regarding the conducting of enquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct were finalised.
 - 22 complaints were referred for a preliminary inquiry to be dealt with in terms of regulation 8.
 - 4 complaints held in terms of regulation 7(2) of the Regulations were finalised.
 - 12 complaints were referred for disciplinary inquiry.
 - 20 were outstanding with supplementary documents.
 - 41 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.
- *The Committee for Preliminary Inquiry Appeals Committee* heard three appeals lodged against the findings of the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry. The Appeals Committee, after careful consideration of all records and documentary evidence upheld the findings of the CPI in all of the cases reviewed.
- *The Professional Conduct Committee* dealt with seven cases of alleged unprofessional or improper conduct. In this regard the Committee found four Respondents (social workers) guilty of unprofessional or improper conduct and three cases were part-heard (parties are still to submit closing arguments). The outcomes of finalised matters is as follows:
 - one social worker guilty of contravening Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) and 3(11) of the Rules Relating to the Acts or Omissions of a Social Worker and received twelve (12) months suspension of registration in terms of section 22(1)(b), of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, without conditions.
 - one social worker was found guilty of contravention of Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) and 3(11) of the Rules and received twenty-four (24) months suspension of registration in terms of section 22(1)(b) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 without conditions.

- one social worker was found guilty of contravention of Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) 3(4) and 4(2) of the Rules Relating to the Acts or Omissions of a Social Worker and received a reprimand in terms of section 22(1)(a), of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978.
- one social worker was found guilty of contravention Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) and 3(11) of the Rules Relating to the Acts or Omissions of a Social Worker and received a twenty-four (24) months suspension of registration in terms of section 22(1)(b), of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, wholly suspended for a period of twenty-four (24) on condition that she is not found guilty on similar offences during the period of suspension

Education, training and development

The PBSW received the following update with regards to the education, training and development pertaining to social workers and social auxiliary workers:

- During the previous quarter, 67 continuing for professional development (CPD) applications were rolled over to the 1st quarter which resulted to 230 CPD applications, including the 163 new applications which were received. 177 were assessed (166 approved, 7 not approved, 4 suspended) and 53 are awaiting assessment.

The PBSW approved the following submissions pertaining to:

- Nelson Mandela University and University of Mpumalanga quality assurance development plans for Bachelor of Social Work.
- Stellenbosch University quality assurance site visit report of Bachelor for Social Work.
- Guidelines for the recruitment and appointment of assessors and moderators.
- The appointment of the quality assurance task team.
- Speciality in Forensic Social Work assessment tools.

A presentation made by the National Department of Social Development on how to apply for Form 30 in terms of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, an inquiry by a person to establish if his or her name is included in Part B of the National Child Protection Register, was warmly welcomed by the Professional Board.

The PBSW concluded its 65th meeting by reflecting on the achievements and work to be prioritised before the end of its term in 2027.

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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.