



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 2/24

21 June 2024

STATEMENT OF THE 60TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 60th meeting on 15 March 2024. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made during quarter 3 (October-December 2023) of the 2023/24 financial year, as follows:

Registration under the Professional Board for Social Work

The Professional Board for Social Work noted that for the period under review:

a total of 243 social workers, 122 social auxiliary workers, 299 student social workers and 209 student social auxiliary workers were registered with the SACSSP. Furthermore, one social worker was registered for the speciality in forensic social work (and may now use the title forensic social worker).

The Professional Board received report that the total of 166 verifications on the status of registration with the SACSSP were processed and sent to international agencies; Social Work England, CORU (Ireland), Social Workers Registration Board New Zealand and Social Care (Wales) which were concluded. A further 233 status of registration and good standing reports were issued to social workers.

A total of 118 social workers and social auxiliary workers who are unemployed were exempted from the payment of annual fees in terms of regulation 3(b) of the *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers (2023)* for the 2024/2025 financial year. The Professional Boards appreciate that social workers and social auxiliary workers who had been exempted from paying annual fees for the next financial year remain in good standing and registered with the SACSSP with the same status as a person who has paid his or annual fees, but are not allowed to practice; however, they can use the practice card issued to apply for job opportunities and pay the prescribed annual fee within 30 days of obtaining employment

Professional conduct

- The *Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI)* investigated 45 complaints.
- The *CPI* finalized 2 separate complaints against two social workers in terms of Regulation 8 of the Regulations regarding the conducting of inquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct. The two social workers were found guilty for contravening the Rules relating to the acts of omissions which shall constitute unprofessional or improper conduct. A penalty in terms of section 22(1)(a) was imposed.

Education, training and development

The Education, Training and Development Committee of the Professional Board for Social Work is currently reviewing the following policy documents;

- a) Assessment of international qualifications and registration policy for social workers and social auxiliary workers
- b) Norms and standards relating to the continuing professional development of social workers and social auxiliary workers (inclusive of guidelines).

The Professional Board concluded its 60th meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and Secretariat for a fruitful meeting.

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.