



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 1/25

27 May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE 63RD MEETING OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 63rd meeting on 18 March 2025. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made during Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 financial year (October to December 2024).

Registration

The Professional Board was apprised on the following matters pertaining to registration, restoration and payment of annual fees.

- During the third quarter, a total of 1,017 applications for registration were received and 787 persons were registered, while 230 applicants were rejected due to a number of reasons, mainly being incomplete applications.
- A total of 247 status of registration reports were issued by the Secretariat
- A total of 83 social workers' names were restored in terms of section 20(3) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978.

Professional conduct

The Professional Board welcomed the report on the capacity building on Code of Ethics where 94 social workers and social auxiliary workers were reached.

The Professional Board noted the report on 39 new complaints of unprofessional or improper conduct against social workers and social auxiliary workers that were received during the period under review. The Committee for Preliminary Inquiry (CPI) investigated 51 complaints and 32 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*, eight were referred for a preliminary inquiry in terms of regulation 8 of the Regulations regarding the conducting of inquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct, seven were referred to the Professional Conduct Committee for a disciplinary inquiry and three were pending supplementary documents.

The Professional Board further noted that Council approved the expansion of the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI) to attend to the outstanding complaints of unprofessional or improper conduct.

Education, training and development

The Professional Board received the reports following the quality assurance site visits from the Professional Board's Education, Training and Development Committee to training institutions.

The Professional Board approved that the following qualifications or components of the qualifications that were assessed meet requirements of a prescribed qualification to be registered as a social worker upon completion of the degree in terms of section 17 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978:

- University of Fort Hare amendment of the Bachelor of Social Work modules 3 and 4.
- University of Western Cape's Bachelor of Social Work.
- Nelson Mandela University's Bachelor of Social Work.

The Professional Board appreciated the feedback on the progress related to:

- The review of South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP) application to offer the Bachelor of Social Work online.
- Quality assurance site visits to the Walter Sisulu University, University of Zululand, Stellenbosch University, University of Mpumalanga, Durban University of Technology, University of South Africa, University of Limpopo and Hugenote College which are still in progress.
- The review of the Norms and standards relating to the continuing professional development for social workers and social auxiliary workers.
- The review of the Policy on continuing professional development for social workers and social auxiliary workers.

The Professional Board noted that 69 new continuing professional development (CPD) applications were received and 92 applications, including 23 applications which were pending from the previous quarter, were assessed, resulting in 84 applications being approved, while four were not approved due to the application not being in line with the scope of practice for social work and social auxiliary work. Four applications were suspended pending sufficient information or clarity required by the assessment panel.

Congratulations

The Professional Board congratulated Dr Varoshini Nadesan on her promotion to Associate Professor in Social Work at the University of Johannesburg.

The Professional Board concluded its 63rd meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and Secretariat for a fruitful meeting and acknowledged World Social Work Day and the work done by social workers and social auxiliary workers under difficult circumstances with limited resources.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The *South African Council for Social Service Professions* (SACSSP) is a regulatory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 ("the Act") with the purpose to regulate the social service professions in South Africa as prescribed in the Act and the Regulations thereto. Two Professional Boards are established and constituted under the auspices of the SACSSP, i.e., the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. The SACSSP, in conjunction with its Professional Boards, regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration (entry to the professions); minimum requirements for education and training (qualifications); professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with standards for professional practice. By regulating the professions, it protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. To safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with the SACSSP in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practicing social work and child and youth care work; and no person may use the title of social worker, social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker, and/or auxiliary child and youth care workers or practice as such, without being registered with the SACSSP.