



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 1/23

25 October 2023

STATEMENT OF THE 58TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 57th meeting on 6 September 2023. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 57th meeting held in May 2023 and the Professional Board's priorities for its term of office.

General issues

The Chairperson of the Professional Board reported on the following matters which were tabled at the 68th meeting of Council:

- Council took a resolution to remove the names of registrants who failed to pay the annual fee for 2023/24 financial year from the Registers in terms of section 20(1)(d) of the Act.
- On the issue of adoption social work services in South Africa Council recommended that the Professional Board arrange a meeting with the National Department of Social Development to discuss this matter.

The Professional Board noted that a letter was directed to the Minister of Social Development with a request for a meeting to discuss, amongst other matters, the following priorities for the social work sector:

- (a) The unemployment rate amongst newly graduated social workers;
- (b) Rising social ill in the country that requires the services of social workers;
- (c) Issues from stakeholder engagements, such as funding; and
- (d) Appropriation of funds by Parliament for the SACSSP.

The Professional Board for Social Work also noted the Quarter 1 (April to June 2023) performance report as follows:

Registration under the Professional Board for Social Work

A total of 2,400 registration certificates were issued to social workers and social auxiliary workers, while a total of 1,288 registration certificates for student social workers and student social auxiliary workers were issued.

The registration outreach that took place at the five institutions of higher education (University of Zululand, Durban University of Technology, University of KwaZulu- Natal, University of Limpopo, University of Venda) and the Limpopo Department of Social Development.

The Restoration Panel attended to 55 applications of which 45 applicants were interviewed and 36 were approved for restoration in terms of section 20(3) of the Act, while nine applications were not approved for restoration. A further seven withdrew from the interviews and three interviews were re-scheduled.

Four applications to be exempted from the payment of annual fees for the 2023/24 financial year were received from unemployed social service professionals 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) of which three applicants were approved and one application was not approved.

Noting increase in the number of noncompliance by social workers and social auxiliary workers as far as the payment of annual fees, the Professional Board for Social Work resolved to embark on a project to develop the social service

sector landscape as part of developing proactive mechanisms to support social workers and social auxiliary workers in compliance with the Act.

Professional conduct

The Professional Board noted the report on the 49 complaints of unprofessional or improper conduct investigated by the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI). The CPI finalised 4 complaints in terms of regulation 8 of the *Regulations regarding the conducting of enquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct*, while 22 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* and 23 matters are still under investigation.

The Professional Board welcomed the report of the CPI Appeals Committee that indicated that three appeals on the findings of the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry were considered and in all three cases the findings of the CPI were set aside by the Appeals Committee and the matters were referred back to the CPI for further investigation.

The Professional Board was informed of the outcomes of the two disciplinary hearings held. On one matter a social worker was found guilty of unprofessional /improper conduct and a penalty of a one-year suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b) of the Act was imposed and on the other matter a social worker found guilty of unprofessional /improper conduct and a penalty of a 24-month suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b) together with a five-thousand-rand (R5000.00) fine in terms of section 22(1)(d) was imposed.

Education, training and development

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

- (a) Norms and Standards for Bachelor of Social Work (BSW);
- (b) Norms and standards for qualifications in social auxiliary work;
- (c) Social work norms and standards for qualifications obtained outside of the country;
- (d) Social auxiliary work norms and standards for qualifications obtained outside of the country; and
- (e) Guideline and policy for the registration of specialities in social work.

Congratulations

The Professional Board congratulated Adv Derrick Block on his appointment to the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute Board of Directors. Mr Frans Manthosi for finalising his research project titled "A comparative study on screening prospective foster parents in Germany and South Africa: A case of North Rhine Westphalia region and Limpopo province" hosted by Evangelische Hochschule Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe (University of applied sciences); Mr Nqaba Bhembe for obtaining Honours Degree in Labour Policy and Globalisation from the University of Witwatersrand and Mr Hitler Sekhitha for obtaining Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) from the University of South Africa.

The Professional Board for Social Work concluded its 58th meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and secretariat for a fruitful meeting.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Lungelwa Mbuzo (Ms) (*Communications and Public Relations Practitioner*)

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

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.