

## **Social Service Practitioners Advocacy Network Newsletter**

**Third Edition: November 2009**

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### **1. SACSSP ELECTIONS**

The South African Council for Social Service Professions published a call for nominations of candidates for the election of members of the South African Council for Social Service Professions and the Professional Board for Social Work on 03 August 2009. The closing date for the nominations was 30 October 2009. The Council is in the process of preparing voting packs to send out to registered social workers, it is expected that the date for return of ballots will be in the new year. (see <http://www.sacssp.co.za/>)

The Notice was circulated to SSPAN mailing lists and the following people were nominated through the network.

- Ashley Theron- Child Welfare SA
- Joan van Niekerk- Childline
- Thulane Gxubane- University of Cape Town
- Kathy Scott- NACCW
- Petra Burger - National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Bridget van der Merwe – Cape Town Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities

In terms of section 5 of the Social Services Professions Action (110 of 1978) the Minister can appoint 13 people to the SACSSP.

- (i) two shall be nominated by the training institutions;
- (ii) one shall be in the employment of the Department of Welfare in the national sphere of government;

- (iii) two shall be nominated by national forums and networks in the welfare, social services and development field;
- (iv) one shall be nominated by trade unions which represent employees engaged in developmental social welfare services;
- (v) one shall be nominated by business;
- (vi) one shall be nominated by the Minister of Education in the national sphere of government;
- (vii) four shall be persons nominated by the community: Provided that-
  - (aa) one shall be appointed by virtue of his or her specialised knowledge in a field other than social work and whose appointment to the council will enhance its effectiveness; and
  - (bb) one shall be a disabled person; and
- (viii) one shall be nominated by the heads of the departments responsible for welfare matters in the provincial sphere of government.

The Minister is required to call for nominations in terms of subsection (1) (c) (v) i.e. the business representative and (vii) the community representative through the media and by notice in the Gazette. The call expected to be published mid December.

## **2. DISSOLUTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PROBATION SERVICES**

The department of Social Development published a notice by Minister in the Government Gazette on the 20 November 2009 repealing the regulations regarding the establishment and constitution of a professional board for probation services made under the Social Services Professions Act 110 of 1978 and published as Government Notice R744 in Government Gazette 26478 of 25 June 2004.

## **3. STATUS OF THE SACSSP AND THE PROFESSIONAL BOARDS**

The terms of office of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Workers; the Professional Board for Social Work and the SACSSP ended in November 2009. This means that they do not have the power to sit or take any decisions until a body have been elected.

## **4. UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS AND THE BILL**

The Bill is still at a drafting phase. It has not been tabled in Parliament and it is not clear when this will happen. The Department of Social Development are in the process of drafting a policy that will guide the implementation of the SSPOB once it is enacted, this must be presented to Parliament at the same time as the Bill. The last draft published dates from November 2008 and is titled the Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill, 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.sacssp.co.za/>

Khululwa Seyisi and Lucy Jamieson co-authored a paper titled *Legal Brief: The Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill, 2008*. The paper seeks to introduce readers and give an overview of the Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill, compare it with the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978; and also provide a comparison of the Social Service

Professions and Occupations Bill; with the Built Environment Professions Bill and Health Professions Act as they establish bodies with similar powers and functions.

The paper can be accessed at <http://ci.org.za/site/frames.asp?section=lawreform> on the resources page.

In addition to this Lucy Jamieson and Prinslean Mahery also wrote an article for the child and youth care journal on the Bill to highlight issues contained in the Bill which are relevant to the child and youth care sector. This article forms part of the mission of all subgroups to produce a series of articles on the Bill so as to draw the attention of the wider sectors to the contents of the Bill.

The article reference is : L Jamieson and P Mahery 'Understanding the Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill: Part one' (2009) *Child and Youth Care Journal* vol 27, Nr 5 at p14.

Members and organisations are urged to read these documents as well as the Bill and write comments. For further enquiries please contact Khululwa on 021 689 5404 or [khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za](mailto:khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za).

## 5. ESTABLISHING SUB GROUPS

The Social Service Practitioners Advocacy Network includes a variety of different occupational groups including but not limited to child and youth care workers, social workers; probation officers; early childhood development practitioners; youth workers and home-based carers. Each occupational group covered by the Social Service Practitioners Advocacy Network needs information that is relevant to their needs; they need an opportunity to formulate a response to the Bill as a group and the opportunity to share their views with other groups. A sub-group is a small team that will drive the consultation in a given sector, ensure that each sector produces a submission in response to the Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill, and coordinates advocacy activities for the sub-sector. The subgroup consists of a network representative responsible for co-ordinating the advocacy strategy of the sector, the technical expert who is ultimately responsible for drafting the final submission for the sector and the rest of the subgroup consists of practitioners in the sector who would contribute to the advocacy strategies and the submission. There is also a Children's Institute support person linked to each subgroup to assist the subgroup throughout the advocacy and parliamentary process in respect of the Bill.

The Working Group will draw in representatives from each sub-group in order to share concerns, develop common messages and run a coordinated campaign across all areas of social service practice.

Sub groups for the following occupational groups have been established thus far: Early childhood development practitioners, Probation Officers, Social Workers, Lay counsellors, and Child and youth care workers

### **Child and youth care subgroup**

This subgroup was formally established on 13 October and held its first teleconference on that same day. Zeni Thumbadoo agreed to be the network coordinator for the subgroup and Merle Alsopp agreed to be the technical expert. The rest of the subgroup members at this stage are Thabo Motsoeneng and Francisco Cornelius. In each subgroup the disability sector is represented by Dorothy Anne Howitson.

#### **More info on the members of the subgroup**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
Prinslean Mahery	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:prinslean.mahery@uct.ac.za">prinslean.mahery@uct.ac.za</a>
Khululwa Seyisi	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za">Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za</a>
Zeni Thumbadoo	NACCW	<a href="mailto:zeni@naccw.org.za">zeni@naccw.org.za</a>
Merle Alsopp	NACCW	<a href="mailto:merle@naccw.org.za">merle@naccw.org.za</a>
Francisco Cornelius	Leliebloem Children's Home	<a href="mailto:franciscocornelius@yahoo.com">franciscocornelius@yahoo.com</a>
Thabo Motsoeneng	Emmasdas High School / NACCW	<a href="mailto:thabomotso@gmail.com">thabomotso@gmail.com</a>
Dorothy-Anne Howitson	National Council for persons with physical disabilities in South Africa	<a href="mailto:elohim@mweb.co.za">elohim@mweb.co.za</a>

The first teleconference was very fruitful and the group established clear action plans to strengthen advocacy around the Bill and its implications for the child and youth care sector. These action plans include commitments to produce a series of articles on the Bill (one article has already been published in October and another one is due for November), drafting guidelines on how to write case-studies, amending discussion papers on the Bill to address the needs of the sector as well as participating in sector workshops and conferences where the Bill could be discussed with members in the child and youth care sector so as to outline key issues that needs to be addressed in relation to the Bill. The subgroup has been very active and diligent in carrying out its commitments.

### **Early Childhood and development subgroup**

Formally established on the 20th of October, this subgroup has Maria Monama as Network Representative and Linda Biersteker as technical expert. The rest of the subgroup members are practitioners in the ECD sector (with the exception of Prinslean, and Khululwa).

**More information on members of the subgroup:**

Name	Organisation	e-mail
Prinslean Mahery	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:prinslean.mahery@uct.ac.za">prinslean.mahery@uct.ac.za</a>
Khululwa Seyisi	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za">Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za</a>
Linda Biersteker	ELRU	<a href="mailto:research@elru.co.za">research@elru.co.za</a>
Maria Monama	KELRU	<a href="mailto:kelru@iafrica.com">kelru@iafrica.com</a>
Pam Picken	TREE ECD	<a href="mailto:tree@worldonline.co.za">tree@worldonline.co.za</a>
Sharon September	ACCESS	<a href="mailto:Sharon@access.org.za">Sharon@access.org.za</a>
Mary Newman	Independent Consultant/ELRU	<a href="mailto:pmarynewman@gmail.com">pmarynewman@gmail.com</a>
Lizette Berry	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Lizette.berry@uct.ac.za">Lizette.berry@uct.ac.za</a>
Norma Rudolph	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Norma.rudolph@uct.ac.za">Norma.rudolph@uct.ac.za</a>
Dorothy Anne Howitson	National Council for persons with physical disabilities in South Africa	<a href="mailto:elohim@mweb.co.za">elohim@mweb.co.za</a>

The subgroup had its first teleconference on the same day that it was formally established. The strategy used to drive advocacy on the Bill in the ECD sector follows the same pattern as that followed by the child and youth care subgroup. So far members of the subgroup has produced one article that relates to the Bill and members are also committed to put the Bill on ECD conference and workshop agenda's so as to formulate a coordinated response to the key issues in the Bill that relates to the ECD sector.

**Probation work sub group**

The sub group had its first teleconference on the 16 November 2009. The biggest challenge faced by this sub group is access to probation officers and creating a safe space for probation officers to engage with the issues in the Bill. The sub group agreed to use provincial coordinators as an interim vehicle in reaching out to probation officers and is also looking at planning a colloquium with other partners. Professor Roland Graser and Khululwa Seyisi will write a paper that will analyse issues pertinent to probation work within the Bill.

**More information on members of the subgroup:**

Name	Organisation	e-mail
Lucy Jamieson	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Lucy.jamieson@uct.ac.za">Lucy.jamieson@uct.ac.za</a>
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Prof. Roland Graser	North West University	<a href="mailto:Roland.graser@nwu.ac.za">Roland.graser@nwu.ac.za</a>
Thulane Gxubane	University of Cape Town	<a href="mailto:Thulane.gxubane@uct.ac.za">Thulane.gxubane@uct.ac.za</a>
Sandra Verwey	University of Johannesburg	<a href="mailto:sandrav@uj.ac.za">sandrav@uj.ac.za</a>
Dr Stan de Smidt	Provincial government, Western Cape	<a href="mailto:sdesmidt@pgwc.gov.za">sdesmidt@pgwc.gov.za</a>
Dorothy Anne Howitson	National Council for persons with physical disabilities in South Africa	<a href="mailto:elohim@mweb.co.za">elohim@mweb.co.za</a>

#### Lay Counsellors sub group

The first teleconference for this sub group was held on the 9 November 2009. There was a sub group that was formed as a response to Council attempting to put a stop to use of volunteers as counsellors. Moefeeda Salie-Kagee will collect case studies from organisations that use lay counsellors and write up a document on the different definitions of volunteers and lay counsellors and what they used are used for. Children's Institute will look at the membership of this sub group and identify other organisation that could be invited in.

#### More information on members of the subgroup:

Name	Organisation	e-mail
Lucy Jamieson	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Lucy.jamieson@uct.ac.za">Lucy.jamieson@uct.ac.za</a>
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Megan Briede	Child Welfare SA	<a href="mailto:briedem@childwelfare.org.za">briedem@childwelfare.org.za</a>
Dorothy Anne Howitson	National Council for persons with physical disabilities in South Africa	<a href="mailto:elohim@mweb.co.za">elohim@mweb.co.za</a>

### Social Work sub group

This sub group has not yet held its meeting. Megan Briedé from Child Welfare SA undertook to circulate the Legal brief to their network as part of consultation on the Bill.

#### More information on members of the subgroup:

Name	Organisation	e-mail
Joan van Niekerk	Child Line	<a href="mailto:joanv@iafrica.com">joanv@iafrica.com</a>
Khululwa Seyisi	Children's Institute	<a href="mailto:Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za">Khululwa.seyisi@uct.ac.za</a>
Megan Briede	Child Welfare SA	<a href="mailto:briedem@childwelfaresa.org.za">briedem@childwelfaresa.org.za</a>
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Jackie Loffell	Johannesburg Child Welfare	<a href="mailto:jackie@jhnchildwelfare.org.za">jackie@jhnchildwelfare.org.za</a>
Dorothy-Anne Howitson	National Council for persons with physical disabilities in South Africa	<a href="mailto:elohim@mweb.co.za">elohim@mweb.co.za</a>

## 6. WORKING GROUP MEETING

The SSPAN Secretariat is planning a Working Group meeting to be held in Cape Town in February 2010. This would be the second working group meeting hosted. The purpose of the Working Group meeting is to discuss the Social Service Professions and Occupations Bill and to devise a strategy of ensuring that the occupational groups write submissions on the Bill. This forum will also seek to establish a working relationship between the Working Group and the sub group for various occupational groups.

An invite and comprehensive agenda will be sent out to Working Group members in due course.

## 7. SSPAN STRUCTURE

Membership of SSPAN is open to anyone with an interest in the Social Service Professions Bill, members will fill in a subscription form to receive information from the network and receive invites to provincial workshops. The Working Group is composed of national organisations and umbrella networks e.g. NACCW, representatives from these organisations will be responsible for coordinating the consultation in their own sectors, distributing SSPAN materials, and writing submissions. The SSPAN network is supported by a secretariat who perform the day to day activities of the running of the network e.g. organising consultative workshops. A steering committee advises the secretariat, they give expert guidance on matters relating to content of the Bill, coordination of the network and strategic advocacy advice.

### **Secretariat**

Members of the core project team working on SSPAN: Khululwa Seyisi, Lucy Jamieson, Prinslean Mahery and Bronwen Williams. They facilitate consultation on the Social Service Professions Bill, and provide advocacy and lobbying support:

- Facilitate content workshops to identify challenges and formulate positions
- Provide legal research and advice
- Provide technical assistance on how to prepare discussion documents for consultation programmes, to write submissions and legal briefs
- Co-ordinate the Parliamentary Hearings at a National level
- Maintain a presence at National Parliament weekly meetings and provide feedback and updates to sub-sector co-ordinators
- Compile and distribute profiles of Members of Parliament to enable NGOs and children to know their MPs and engage with them
- Provide regular updates and information on parliamentary debates and on the MPs, to members to empower and enable them to participate in the law reform process
- Ensure that press releases and opinion pieces in the name of SSPAN are adequately consulted on before being finalised and released.

### **Steering Group**

Purpose to advise the Secretariat on key issues affecting the delivery of the project; the Steering Committee will be consulted on major decisions for example the content of workshop, the range of fact-sheets etc. Consultation will be by means of teleconference. Before each teleconference the Secretariat will be sent a briefing document on the issues to be discussed, they will be sent a record of decisions following the teleconference. Consultation will be according to need but this is expected every two months.

Members:

- Paula Proudlock (Children's Institute)
- Megan Briedé (Child Welfare South Africa)
- Joan van Niekerk (Childline South Africa)
- Sam Mokgopha (National Alliance for Street Children)
- Zeni Thumbadoo (National Association of Child Care Workers)
- Maria Monama (National Early Childhood Development Alliance)
- Rajesh Latchman (National Welfare Forum)

### **Working Group**

At the closing workshop of the Children's Bill Working Group members supported the creation of the new network and consented to joining. Therefore everyone that was previously included on the Children's Bill Working Group mailing list was added to the SSPAN Working Group list.

Contact information – details are captured and updated on the SSPAN Working Group spreadsheet.

All members will be sent electronic communications and added to the CKM database with a flag to receive hard copies of Children's Institute materials.

### **Sub Groups**

Please refer to number 2 above.

### **Subscribers**

Anyone who wishes to be a member of the network will be invited to subscribe to the mailing list. They will be sent newsletters and content briefings.

## **8. SUBSCRIBE TO THE NETWORK**

If you subscribe to SSPAN you will receive policy briefs and progress updates. You will also become part of the broader network of organisations and individuals from civil society and government interested in participating in the making of the Social Service Professions Bill.

A subscription form is attached to this email and also available on the Children's Institute website: [http://ci.org.za/depts/ci/plr/pdf/bills/SSPAN\\_SUBSCRIBER\\_FORM.doc](http://ci.org.za/depts/ci/plr/pdf/bills/SSPAN_SUBSCRIBER_FORM.doc)

If you would like to continue to receive updates, please complete the form and return it to Bronwen Williams on fax 021 689 8330 or e-mail [bee.williams@uct.ac.za](mailto:bee.williams@uct.ac.za)