

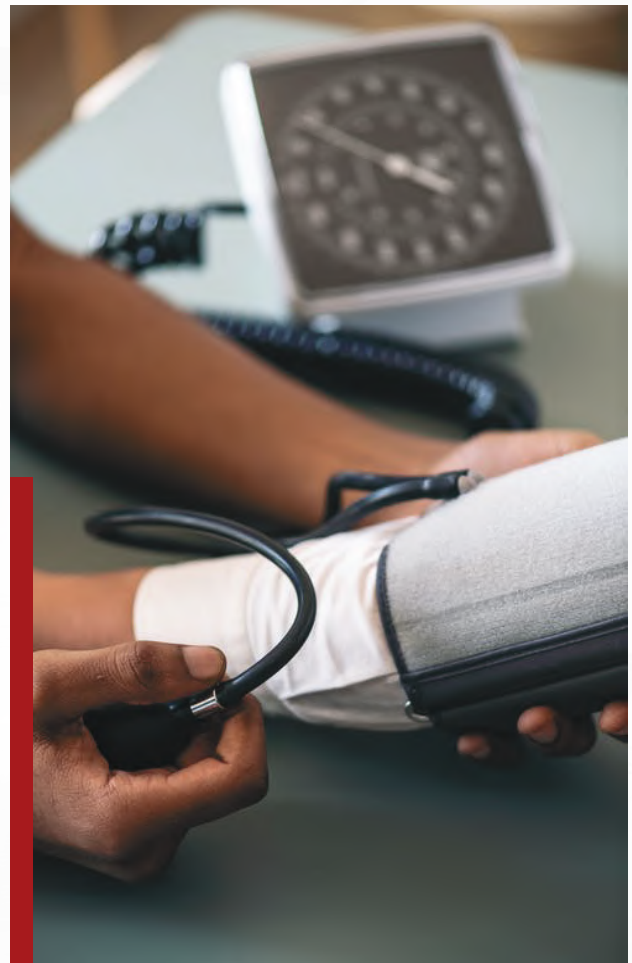
SANC refutes claims regarding training of Nurses

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) notes with concern the recent article in the news by Solidarity's Occupational Guild for Nursing regarding the training of nurses in South Africa.

According to the article South Africa is experiencing critical problems with regards to the training of nurses, with Mr Hennie Bierman, Head of the Occupational Guild for Nursing quoted as saying: "... the SANC's ineffectiveness has a negative impact on the **finalisation of regulations on nursing training**".

The statement is factually incorrect. The SANC has developed and duly submitted all regulations regarding the offering of the new nursing programmes. Regulations relating to undergraduate programmes were promulgated by the Minister as far back as 2013 including regulations for the accreditation of institutions as Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs). Those regarding the offering of post-graduate diploma programmes were completed and submitted in 2017. The Department of Health has been processing and continues to process these regulations and consults with the South African Nursing Council as it deems fit. It is not clear which Regulations the article is referring to as **there are no outstanding regulations for offering of the undergraduate programmes** that have not been developed by the SANC and duly submitted to the Department of Health.

The article further states that "*...the SANC's ineffectiveness has a negative impact on theaccreditation of new training institutions for nursing training, practice, and programmes, as well as the reaccreditation of existing institutions and programmes offering nurses' training*". This statement is incorrect and misinformed. The SANC can only accredit institutions that have duly applied and met the set accreditation criteria and requirements.



Those training institutions that have met such requirements now have either full or conditional accreditation and will in all likelihood commence offering the new nursing programmes in 2020. These include some universities and private institutions. In addition, the process of reaccreditation is not automatic, and institutions that have the capacity to offer the new nursing qualifications have duly applied. Names of institutions, both private and public, which have been accredited by the SANC will be published on its website www.sanc.co.za to assist the public.

SANC refutes claims regarding training of Nurses (cont.)

The article proceeded to describe a lack of communication between the SANC and the Department of Higher Education as the main reason for the delay in *".....accreditation of all nursing courses and the approval of private training institutions have been dragging on since 2014"*. This statement is not just false and generic but malicious as the SANC is in communication with applicant institutions to keep them informed about where they are in the process. Communication with the Department of Higher Education, which is not mandatory, has taken place as and when both parties had matters to discuss.

Another statement: *"Unfortunately, neither the private training institutions nor the new curricula have been approved or accredited. Therefore, nurses' training has ground to a halt to a large extent. Due to these problems, most private training institutions have not taken in any new nursing students since 2016,"* clearly reflects on the author's lack of information regarding the process that informed the academic and professional reasons for the phasing-out of the legacy programmes that are referred to.

Accusations regarding *"... the delay was impeding accredited private nursing training institutions, and that no private institution had received approval for training over the past three years, and the SANC has suspended many of the courses offered by the existing private institutions back in 2015"* is a broad generalisation made without basic insight into facts on why some legacy courses were phased out. Institutions that are a subject of lamentation are also not mentioned in the article, casting doubt on the authenticity of the complaint. Factually, there were only **two courses**, not many as it is alleged in the article, that were phased out because they were no longer in sync with any framework that located nursing in higher education. Nurses' training has not ground to a halt as there are still more than twelve (12) programmes that are still offered by qualifying institutions. If the SANC had been contacted, the author of the article he would have been enlightened.

The SANC is blamed directly by stating that *"This means that even fewer nurses are being trained, putting extra pressure on the existing nurses in the profession, which again impacts service delivery. Given that 60% of the country's nursing training is done by private training institutions, accreditation of these institutions can prevent shortages of nursing staff in the future."*

The lamentation is not clear and is biased as the author is not specific about the category of nurse that is in short supply and would be resolved by continued training of the two phased-out programmes, which are the one-year auxiliary nursing programme and the two-year programme leading to enrolment as nurse. No evidence exists that products from these two programmes are in short supply.

Claims made that *"The SANC and the Department of Health must urgently prioritise their training framework for nursing and they must see to it that they align themselves to avert a training disaster that is in the making,"* further demonstrates a total lack of understanding about the required frameworks for training of nurses.

"The SANC would like to make it clear that frameworks that reside within its jurisdiction are in place and are known by its stakeholders, specifically Nursing Education Institutions. There are no training regulations that are outstanding from the SANC's side, competencies for specialization programmes and curriculum frameworks have been developed and published and accreditation requirements as well as processes are in place. Any statements or rumours made to the contrary are a blatant display of lack of proper communication and consultation by the author involved and could have been avoided had the necessary steps been taken to obtain the correct information prior to publishing defamatory claims against the SANC. The overt lack of basic understanding of these matters on the side of the author is regrettable," says Ms Sizo Mchunu, Registrar and CEO of the SANC.



New service-oriented email addresses!

As part of its continued commitment to customer service the SANC has decided to do away with the email address: **registrar@sanc.co.za**

It will be replaced with more dedicated email addresses aimed at our clients' specific needs as per statistics of the past year.

With immediate effect, the following email addresses will be available to address your queries:

EMAIL ADDRESS	TYPE OF ENQUIRY
apc@sanc.co.za	APC related enquiries
customerservice@sanc.co.za	Complaints, compliments, service requests, etc.
restoration@sanc.co.za	Restoration enquiries
registration@sanc.co.za	Registration enquiries; Community service
foreign@sanc.co.za	Foreign registration enquiries
exams@sanc.co.za	Examination enquiries
personaldetails@sanc.co.za	Change of personal details
cpd@sanc.co.za	CPD enquiries
Professionalpractice@sanc.co.za	Preliminary Investigation and unfitness to practice
Professionalconduct@sanc.co.za	Professional conduct issues
education@sanc.co.za	New curriculum, community service, courses, nursing schools etc.
devices@sanc.co.za	Purchasing of distinguishing devices

The SANC honoured its in-house nurses with a high tea in celebration of this year's International Nurses Day.

It was our turn to take care of the Carer. Our theme this year was: "Nurses – delivering healthcare with mindfulness".

We have invited stakeholders to join us in the theme – below are some pictures that have been shared with us.

INTERNATIONAL Nurses Day '19



"Nurses - delivering healthcare with mindfulness"



Images supplied by:
AHRI
AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Images supplied by:



eRegister

The SANC is aware that employers are still refusing to accept the **SANC eRegister** as proof of registration – and we fail to understand why.

What is the eRegister?

- The eRegister is the South African Nursing Council Electronic Register of Nurses and Midwives
- The eRegister is published in terms of section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005.
- The sole purpose of the **eRegister is to enable Internet users to quickly verify the registration status of nursing practitioners** in South Africa.
- For security reasons, the eRegister is a COPY of the active records in the official register, displayed on the Internet and updated from time to time in terms of section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005. For this reason, RECENT additions and removals may not be reflected until the next update takes place. The date on which the information was extracted from the official register is shown in the heading of details pages
- In terms of section 36 of the Nursing Act, 2005, there are four documents that provide proof that a person is registered as a practitioner. These documents are the following:
 - A copy of the last published issue of a register.
 - A SANC certificate of registration (valid for one year from date of registration)
 - A SANC Annual Practicing certificate (APC- valid for one year from date of registration)
 - A certified copy under the hand of the Registrar of the entry of the person's name in the register
- While the eRegister is not a physical document, it is still a copy of the official register, published (displayed on the Internet) in terms of section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005 and it can legally be used by employers or prospective employers to verify that a person is registered in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005.
- Full details of person's removed from the register are always retained in the Nursing Council's official register. However, the eRegister ONLY contains details of those persons currently registered. The absence of a person's name from the eRegister means that he/she has either been removed from the register or never been registered at all. If necessary, users of the eRegister may confirm the reason why the person has been removed from the register by calling the **Help Desk on (012) 420-1000** during office hours or **by email** sent to **customerservice@sanc.co.za**
- The information in the eRegister is displayed in good faith as an easy to use tool for Internet users. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information displayed is correct and that the system operates correctly. However, the Council's official register (database) will always take precedence in the event of any discrepancy.

Functions of the eRegister:

- It is primarily intended for use by employers or prospective employers who need to verify the registration status of an employee or prospective employee. Practitioners may also use the eRegister to confirm their own registration status.

Accessing the eRegister:

- The eRegister is freely available to use on the SANC website
- There are instructions on the screen to guide the end users and make the use of the tool user friendly
- Conditions of use must be read and accepted in order to use the eRegister.

5 Easy Steps to Access the eRegister

1 | Go to www.sanc.co.za
Using any of the main stream internet browsers
(internet Explorer, Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.)

2 | On the left pane click on "**eRegister**"

3 | Click on "Click here to start the eRegister System"

4 | Click on " I accept the conditions of use"

5 | Enter the SANC number or SA ID number and click the Find button.