

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR ATTENTION : THE NEWS EDITOR
SUBJECT : TRAINING OF NURSES BY PRIVATE NURSING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
DATE : 24 MAY 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) has taken note of comments made in some media regarding the training of Nurses by the Private Nursing Education Institutions/ Private Higher Education Institutions.

The South African Nursing Council is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005).

Furthermore, the SANC may accredit Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) and Nursing education programmes including the number of students and intakes. This is subject to compliance with set criteria, requirements and conditions which are standard for both public and private NEIs.

The SANC is statutorily obligated to ensure that quality Nursing Education and Training is provided by such accredited NEIs. This statement must be read in conjunction with Media Statement 1/2022 (Training of Nurses) released on 4 August 2022. The below factors amongst others are considered when deciding to grant accreditation or not.

- **Letter of support** that is **issued by the Provincial Department of Health** in support of placement of students in public Health Establishments in particular, the community component.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. van', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

- **Physical resources** - the number and capacity of the classrooms, classroom equipment, the capacity and equipment of the clinical laboratory that will be used by the students as well as the size of the library and relevant study material. With the hybrid mode of offering the programme (s), the students must also have all the resources for online or eLearning.
- **Clinical Facilities**
 - The number and size of health establishments that are used for clinical placement of students and number of students to be placed **as stipulated** by the respective Provincial Departments of Health, depending on the type of the Nursing programme to be offered;
 - The number of other Nursing Education Institutions placing students in the same clinical facilities;
 - The number and types of primary healthcare centers (e.g. Community Health Centers and Clinics) and statistics to achieve the Exit level outcomes of the respective programme;
 - Clinical Facilitator: student ratio, in line with SANC guideline requirements for the respective programme; and
 - Bed state and occupancy.

The SANC cannot act irresponsibly by allowing a patient student ratio in clinical facilities, that may compromise the quality of clinical learning as well as the safety of patients.

- **Human Resources**
 - Lecturer: student ratio, in line with the respective programme(s) guidelines (lecturers should have appropriate qualifications and cannot teach the same level of programme outcomes that they have achieved).
 - Lecturers should be licensed to practice as Nurses (APC).
 - Years of teaching and clinical experience for the lecturers and clinical facilitators as per the SANC guidelines.

The statement that depicts SANC as the stumbling block for Nurse training is unfounded. The SANC is mandated to protect the public on matters relating to health and in particular Nursing. Therefore, it is duty bound to ensure that quality Nursing Education and Training is provided and cannot compromise this obligation for any other interest outside production of safe and competent practitioners for patient safety.

ENDS

Issued by:

Mrs. Adri van Eeden

Senior Manager: Communication and Marketing

South African Nursing Council

E-mail: avaneeden@sanc.co.za

Website: www.sanc.co.za

Tel: 012 426-9542

Official Spokesperson and person to be quoted:

Prof NG Mtshali

Registrar and CEO: SA Nursing Council



2023-05-24

For more information or to arrange for an interview with the Spokesperson, please contact Mrs. Adri van Eeden on Tel. (012) 426-9542 or email: avaneeden@sanc.co.za