



## **South African Nursing Council**

(Under the provisions of the Nursing Act, 2005)

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**To:** Nursing Education Institutions  
National Department of Health  
Provincial Department of Health  
Nursing Stakeholders

### **EXTENSION OF THE DATE OF OFFERING LEGACY NURSING QUALIFICATIONS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NURSING QUALIFICATIONS REGISTERED ON THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF)**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this circular is to inform Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) and other nursing stakeholders of the status of current legacy nursing qualifications and the progress towards the implementation of the new nursing qualifications.

#### **Background**

In lieu of the changes in the new NQF Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008) which now provides NQF levels ranging from 1 – 10 compared with the previous levels which were from 1 – 8, the nursing qualifications have to be realigned with the new NQF levels and credit values. The South African Nursing Council (SANC) has therefore realigned the new nursing qualifications with new NQF levels as follows:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Bachelor in Nursing                   | NQF L 8 |
| • Advanced Diploma: Midwifery           | NQF L 7 |
| • Diploma in Nursing                    | NQF L 6 |
| • Higher Certificate: Nursing Auxiliary | NQF L 5 |

The necessary regulations to effect the implementation of these qualifications have been published for public comments in December 2011 and they shall be gazetted by the Minister of the National Department of Health in due course.

Furthermore, the SANC is working with nursing experts and professional associations in developing and finalising the competencies of the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). The SANC's position statement on the Advance Practice Nurse can be accessed on the SANC website ([www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za)) for reference.

Development of the processes and systems to ensure the smooth implementation of the new nursing qualifications, which include new nursing education standards; curriculum guidelines; scope of practice of the envisaged new nursing cadres; and an online accreditation system, is already at an advanced stage.

Noting that the new nursing qualifications are all in the Higher Education sub-framework, there has been on-going discussions between the SANC and the Council on Higher Education (CHE), which culminated in the SANC issuing Circular No. 6 of 2012 on dual submission. The rationale for this is that whilst there is agreement that all qualifications in the Higher Education sub-framework (including new nursing qualifications) are to be quality assured by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC), such qualifications must meet the criteria for professional registration as laid down by the SANC. For this reason, both the SANC and the CHE are working together to ensure a smooth accreditation process as per their respective mandates contained in both the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005) and the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997 (as amended)).

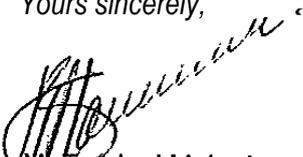
#### **Extension of the date of offering legacy nursing qualifications**

In terms of the SANC Circular No. 7/2011, the date of offering legacy nursing qualifications was extended to **June 2013**. In view of the issues mentioned above and the submissions from various stakeholders in respect to the period required by NEIs in preparation of offering the new nursing qualifications, the South African Nursing Council has resolved to further extend the date of offering the legacy nursing qualifications to **June 2015**. Subsequently, the SANC has also requested the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) to reregister the legacy nursing qualifications for a further period of three years. This period is also consistent with the notice that SAQA has reregistered occupational-related qualifications that are currently on the NQF for a further period of three years; with a two-year teach out period.

Nursing Education Institutions and nursing stakeholders shall be informed of further developments regarding the phasing in of the new nursing qualifications in due course.

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*Yours sincerely,*

  
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