

## SANC Virtual Office



The South African Nursing Council's (SANC) virtual office for nurses has been operating since 3 September 2018.

The purpose of the **SANC Virtual Office** is to bring limited walk-in services such as payment of annual fees, selling of distinguishing devices, providing information related to the SANC, etc. to the nurses' doorstep and thus eliminating the need for them to travel to Pretoria.

The services offered at the Virtual Office include:

### Payment of annual fees

- 1 Nurses are requested to provide the SANC officials with their SANC reference numbers rather than ID numbers for the processing of annual fees payments.
- 2 There is no limitation for the number of people you can pay for. However, one must ensure that the daily limit is increased with their respective banks.
- 3 The SANC further requests nurses to avoid using more than one bank card for payments because that delays the process. It would be appreciated / better if they deposit the money into one person's account to save time.
- 4 If a person has paid at the bank already, the outreach staff cannot print their Annual Practising Certificates (APCs) as these will be sent to the nurses through the post. They will only be processing payments done on the day of the outreach.
- 5 Restorations cannot be processed immediately and any payment received for restoration will only be processed by the SANC head office after the visit. Proof of payment in the form of a white receipt will be provided and the original Annual Practising Certificate will follow later.

### Selling of distinguishing devices

- The quantity of distinguishing devices will be limited to ONE pair per person. Nurses are also requested to bring their original green identity books/smart cards for verification.
- If a nurse is buying on behalf of his or her colleague, he/she must also bring his/her original green identity book.
- If a nurse is buying on behalf of his or her colleague, the distinguishing devices form must be completed, on both sides, and signed by the owner. Please note that if the form is incorrectly completed, the request WILL NOT be processed.
- The owner must attach the certified copy of his or her ID and the quantity will be limited to one pair only if buying for someone else.
- If a person has ordered the distinguishing devices through the bank, Outreach staff cannot issue that order, it will be sent through the post.

The provincial outreach plan for the remainder of 2018 is published below – be sure to diarise the dates! Please visit [www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za) for details of the specific venues and dates.

Province	Days Allocated	Week 1	Week 2
Western Cape	8 Days	15-19 Oct	31 Oct-02 Nov
Free State	5 Days	22-26 Oct	N/A
Limpopo	8 Days	05-07 Nov	19-23 Nov
Mpumalanga	5 Days	12-16 Nov	N/A
Gauteng	8 Days	28-30 Nov	03-07 Dec

To date, **19 502** receipts have been issued at the Virtual Office. Well done team SANC!

## RESTORATION FEES FOR 2019

The restoration fees for the different categories applicable from 1 January 2019 are:

CATEGORY	NORMAL RESTORATION FEE	REDUCED RESTORATION FEE
Registered Nurses and Midwives	R1 920.00	R130.00
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives	R1 160.00	R130.00
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries	R810.00	R130.00

### NOTES:

The reduced restoration fee only applies to:

- Practitioners who were voluntarily removed from the Register
- Practitioners who are or will be 60 years of age or older on 1 January 2019 are legible to pay reduced annual fees, however this **must be confirmed with the Council** before paying the reduced amount.



## VOLUNTARY REMOVAL

Nurse practitioners who are no longer willing to practice nursing or those who are unemployed may request voluntary removal of their names from the Register in writing, on the form available from the SANC. If voluntary removal is granted by the SANC, the nurse practitioner's name will be removed accordingly on **31 December** of the year in which the application is received. Once removed from the Register, the nurse practitioner will no longer be required to pay any future annual fees.

If those practitioners who were voluntarily removed from the register require their names to be restored to the register they will need to pay **reduced restoration fees**. It must be noted that practicing while not registered is illegal.

APC's – only  
**10 weeks**  
left to pay

**CLOSING DATE**  
**FOR PAYMENT OF**  
**ANNUAL FEES for the**  
**calendar year 2019 is**  
**31 December 2018.**

December 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Safe day to make an electronic payment

● Last day to make payment

### ANNUAL FEE: 2019

Registered Nurses and Midwives **R640.00**  
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives **R380.00**  
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries **R270.00**

Payment must reach the SANC bank account **on or before the closing date.**

You are therefore urged to pay as soon as possible in order to avoid the last-minute rush.

Remember: Bank transfers from non-FNB banks take up to 3 working days – pay well in advance to meet the 31 December 2018 deadline. A safe date to make payment and ensure you allow for bank transfers is thus **24 December 2018.**

## Why restoration fees?

Restoration fees are fines for late/incorrect/non-payment by the cut-off date. Restoration fees are directly derived from legislation and therefore restoration in itself cannot be decided lightly by the administration and must be discussed thoroughly in a full Council meeting before a reasonable and rational decision can be made and recommendations, if any, communicated to the Minister of Health for changes relating to the relevant legislation.

Practitioners are encouraged to pay their annual fees on time **within the given six months**, and ensure they pay **the prescribed amount** to avoid removal of their names from the register. They are also advised to keep their contact details updated so that letters regarding short payments etc. can reach them on time. Informing the SANC of change of names and contact details within a specific time after such change is also a legal requirement.

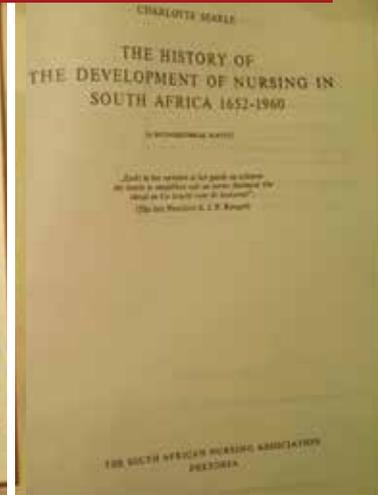
### Payment of restoration fees

The SANC like most statutory regulators in the country and globally, is an autonomous professional body that is **established by parliament through a statute**, to regulate the nursing sector of the health system. As an autonomous body, it receives no funds or subsidies from Government. The Council is totally funded by the fees it receives from registered persons within the profession. The law dictates that the prescribed fees are paid within a particular time frame, which is six months for the nursing sector as compared to other sectors where professionals are given a month within which to pay their annual fees. The law also dictates what needs to happen (removal of name from the register) if this timeframe is not complied with. This is the same as in other regulated professions like Law, Finance, Engineering, Health etc. With all of these and many others, non-payment attracts sanctions such as restoration fees, which are also prescribed by law.



# The SANC – How it all started

In **1944**, the nursing and midwifery professions in South Africa were the first in the world to be granted autonomy over their professions. This was done in terms of the Nursing Act (Act No 45 of 1944).



The existence of the South African Nursing Council as a statutory professional body is therefore mandated by the Nursing Act, 1944 through an Act of Parliament. It has the function to regulate the nursing profession by establishing and maintaining nursing education and training and practice standards.

Although the mandate of the South African Nursing Council primarily remained the same, the Nursing Act has been amended and/or replaced several times to retain its relevance by accommodating societal, legal and professional changes. The current Nursing Act was promulgated on 15 December 2006 to repeal the Nursing Act, 1978 (Act No 50 of 1978) as amended. Certain sections of the new Act were enacted in December 2007 and the entire Act became effective as from June 2008.

The primary purpose of the Act is to transform the Nursing Council so as to increase the protection of the interests of the Public and to promote greater accountability of Council Members and Management. The Act is intended to dovetail with provisions of the National Health Act, 2003 (Act No 61 of 2003) and other relevant legislation.



The process to transform the Council was initiated in 1994 following democracy when the then existing Nursing Councils (then named Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and "South African") were abolished and an interim structure was established.

The mandate of the Interim Council was to review the existing legislation and create an enable legislation which will begin to democratise the composition of Council as well as to develop universal nursing values and norms, including improving nursing practice. The Nursing Amendment Act was promulgated which, among others, changed the composition of the Council to make it more representative. This led to the inauguration of the first democratic Council in June 1998. It should be noted that the Nursing Council was the first among all Professional Councils to establish a democratic Council.

The first democratic Council continued with the transformative process wherein a process of repealing the Nursing Act, 1978 was initiated.

In November 2001, the then Minister of Health, established a Ministerial Task Team consisting of members from professional, technical health councils and the National Department of Health to accelerate transformation of professional and technical health councils. Some of the recommendations were incorporated into the Nursing Act, 2005.



**Professor RV Gumbi**  
SANC President:  
1995-2003

# October is Eye Care Awareness Month

Courtesy: A Moodley Optometrist and [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)

Are you one of millions of people around the world walking around with a sight-threatening disease? Unless you have your eyes checked regularly by a professional, you might not even be aware that your sight is in danger.

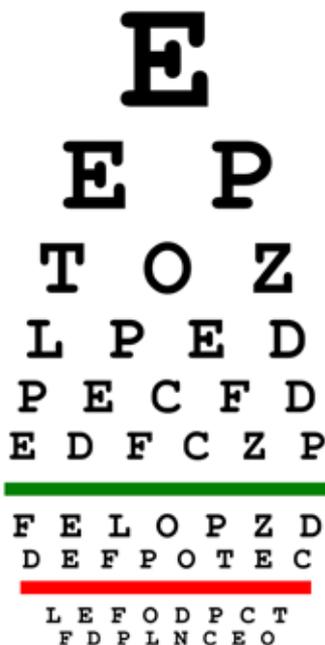
Some diseases, like glaucoma, have no early warning signs. Instead, vision deteriorates silently and painlessly until it results in total blindness. But if glaucoma is detected early and is correctly-treated, vision loss and blindness may be prevented.

Eyesight is one of the most precious gifts a person can have. That's why we encourage you to have your eyes checked this October-, during Eye Care Awareness Month.

Many people don't pay much attention to their eyesight or the health of their eyes. It's unfortunate as 80% of blindness is avoidable.

Most eye conditions can be successfully treated if detected early. Get your eyes tested, and take practical measures to protect your eyes like wearing sunglasses and protecting your eyes against injury.

Your vision is a great gift. Please pay it the attention it deserves.



## Eye-care tips:



Visit an optometrist or doctor regularly and don't ignore problems with your eyes. This way you can detect and treat eye conditions early on.



Protect your eyes from damage or scratches from foreign objects that can lead to infection or damage. Wear protective eye-wear when working with equipment that may cause shards to fly into your eyes.



Wear sunglasses that give your eyes proper protection from the damaging rays of the sun.



Take regular breaks from your computer screen to minimise eye strain and the development of eye-focusing problems.