THE SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL - CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SELF-REGULATION: 1944 - 2019

SANC HISTORY

1944

The existence of the SA Nursing Council as a statutory professional health council brought to an end voluntary registration, which for a long time had compromised public protection. The first Chairman and President of the South African Nursing Council was Col. CA Nothard. The first 24-member Council had a two-year tenure, which ended with elections in 1946. The journey of amending the Nursing Act mirrors the "good, the bad and the ugly":

- Separate registers of Nurses and Midwives by colour - Nursing Act, 1957;
- Creation of "homeland" Nursing Councils;
- Limitation of the practice of nursing by registered persons only, created a "closed" profession, enhancing public protection - Nursing Act, 1972;

A process of transformation gained momentum with the approach of democracy. The Nurses’ convention in early 1994 was followed by a Ministerial delegation from the four "homeland" Councils, led by the ANC’s Ms Cherly Carolus, tasked with drafting a Nursing Act that would reflect democratic principles.

This culminated in the amalgamation of the previously existing Nursing Councils - then named Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and South African - to form the South African Interim Nursing Council in 1995.

1995

The positive output of the delegation was the repeal of the Nursing Acts of the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei (TBVC) states and the institution of the Interim Nursing Council up to 1998.
The inauguration of the first democratic Nursing Council took place in June 1998 – the first among all professional councils to establish a democratic Council.

This Council continued with the transformative process, leading to the Nursing Act, 2005.

Prof RV Gumbi: first President of the democratically elected Council.

The then Minister of Health, Dr M Tshabalala-Msimang set up a Ministerial task team in 2001, which revisited all Acts of Health Professional Councils. The recommendations of the Task Team were captured in the Nursing Act, 2005 and underpin the principles and philosophy for the content of the revised and current Nursing Act, No 33 of 2005.

The primary purpose of the Nursing Act was to transform the Nursing Council in order to enhance public protection and promote greater accountability of Council members and management.
With regards to Education and Training, Section 4 of the Nursing Act makes provisions for the accreditation and inspection of Nursing Education Institutions, the monitoring of assessments conducted by accredited Institutions, the conducting of nursing examinations, and the granting of diplomas and certificates.

Section 58(1)(f) of the Nursing Act, 2005 provides for the making of regulations by the Minister of Health, in consultation with the Council.

Provisions of the Nursing Act, 2005 were proclaimed from 2006-2008. This ensured the continued existence of the Council as a ‘juristic person’, whose main objectives are to protect the public and to establish, improve and control the conditions, standards and quality of nursing education and training as well as practice.
In 2012, the South African Nursing Council building was renamed to Cecilia Makiwane Building, in recognition of her being the first African registered Professional Nurse in South Africa on the 7th January 1908. She is also recorded as having been a human rights activist.

In 2019 the SANC launched its new logo and slogan and is celebrating its 75th anniversary.
Vision and Mission

Vision
Excellence in professionalism and advocacy for health care users.

Mission
We serve and protect health care users by regulating the nursing and midwifery professions.

Guided by the values:
Advocacy
Caring
Quality
Professionalism
Innovation
Relevance
The South African Nursing Council is...

...entrusted to set and maintain standards of nursing education and practice in the Republic of South Africa. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body, initially established by the Nursing Act, 1944 (Act No. 45 of 1944), and currently operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005).

Objectives of Council

The Objectives of the Council are to:

- serve and protect the public in matters involving health services generally and nursing services in particular;
- perform its functions in the best interests of the public and in accordance with national health policy as determined by the Minister;
- promote the provision of nursing services which comply with universal norms and values to the inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa;
- establish, improve and control conditions, standards and quality of nursing education and training within the ambit of this Act and any other applicable laws;
- maintain professional conduct and practice standards for practitioners within the ambit of any applicable legislation;
- promote and maintain liaison and communication with all stakeholders regarding nursing standards, and in particular standards of nursing education and training and professional conduct and practice, both in and outside the Republic;
- advise the Minister on the amendment or adaptation of this Act regarding matters pertaining to nursing;
- be transparent and accountable to the public in achieving its objectives and in performing its functions;
- uphold and maintain professional and ethical standards within nursing; and
- promote the strategic objectives of the Council.
Functions of Council

The Council must:

(a) In all its decisions, take cognisance of national health policies as determined by the Minister and implement such policies in respect of nursing;
(b) Where authorised by this Act, enter, remove from or restore to the register the name of a person;
(c) Conduct examinations, and appoint examiners and moderators and grant diplomas and certificates in respect of such examinations;
(d) Conduct inspections and investigations of nursing education institutions, nursing education programmes and health establishments, in order to ensure compliance with this Act and the rules and standards determined by the Council in terms of this Act;
(e) Report to the relevant statutory body any non-compliance established after an inspection and investigation referred to in paragraph (d);
(f) Ensure that persons registered in terms of this Act behave towards users of health services in a manner that respects their constitutional rights to human dignity, bodily and psychological integrity and equality, and that disciplinary action is taken against persons who fail to do so;
(g) Investigate complaints against persons registered in terms of this Act and take appropriate disciplinary action against such persons in accordance with the provisions of this Act in order to protect the interests of the public;
(h) Publish in the Government Gazette the details of the unprofessional conduct and the names and qualifications of the persons against whom disciplinary action was taken in terms of this Act within 30 days of the conclusion of such disciplinary action;
(i) Ensure that a register of persons registered in terms of this Act is available to the public as prescribed;
(j) Investigate and take action against non-accredited nursing education institutions;
(k) Withdraw or suspend accreditation of a nursing education institution or nursing education programme if the education or training provided does not comply with the prescribed requirements, and inform the relevant licensing authority;
(l) Determine -
   (i) the scope of practice of nurses;
   (ii) the conditions under which nurses may practise their profession;
   (iii) the acts or omissions in respect of which the Council may take steps against any person registered in terms of this Act; and
   (iv) the requirements for any nurse to remain competent in the manner prescribed;
(m) Determine prescribed licence or registration fees, payable under this Act;
(n) Monitor the assessment by education and training providers, including the recognition of prior learning, register constituent assessors and moderators and grant diplomas and certificates in accordance with the requirements of this Act and any other law;
(o) Be regarded as an education and training quality assurer in terms of section 5 of the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995), for all nursing qualifications;
(p) Submit to the Minister -
   (i) a five-year strategic plan within six months of the Council coming into office, which includes details as to how the Council plans to achieve its objectives under this Act;
   (ii) a report every six months on the status of nursing and on matters of public importance compiled by the Council in the course of the performance of its functions under this Act; and
   (iii) an annual report within six months of the end of the financial year;
(q) Ensure that an annual budget is drawn up in terms of sections 23 and 24 and that the Council operates within the parameters of such budget; and
(r) Perform such other functions as may be prescribed.
The new SANC slogan “Regulating nursing, advocating for the public” reflects the essence of what the SANC does - it regulates the Nursing profession by establishing and maintaining nursing education and training as well as practice standards; it also advocates on behalf of the public in matters concerning nursing.

**NEW LOGO AND SLOGAN**

- The colour turquoise is taken from the SANC Coat of Arms to ensure a link with our heraldic emblem.
- The stethoscope is a universal symbol used in healthcare by professionals within the health industry.
- The oil lamp is a universal symbol reminiscent of Florence Nightingale, and by implication of nursing throughout the world.
- The red is symbolic for its association with healing.

### South African Nursing Council

- Regulating nursing, advocating for the public

---

**SANC Business Areas**

**Secretariat**

**Education and Training**
- Accreditation
- Assessments
- Registrations

**Professional Practice**
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Professional practice
- Unfitness to practise
- Investigation of complaints

**Information and Communication Technology**
- Information Technology
- Records Management
- Registry

**Human Resources**
- Recruitment and Selection
- Performance Management
- Employee engagement/relations
- Occupational Health & Safety and Employee Wellness
- Learning and Development

**Legal Affairs**
- Litigation
- Regulatory support
- General legal support
- Professional Conduct hearings

**Marketing and Communication**
- Stakeholder engagement
- Media management & liaison
- Marketing
- Branding
- Event management
- Client Services

**Finance and Administration**
- Administration
- Finance
- Supply Chain Management
- Revenue collection and sales
Composition of Council

The Council consists of 25 members, of whom 14 must be registered in terms of section 31(1)(a) and (b), appointed by the Minister of Health taking into account their expertise in nursing education, nursing, community health, primary health care, occupational health and mental health.

Following from a process of nomination by fellow practitioners, the members are appointed by the Minister of Health in terms of Section 5 of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005) as follows:

Section 5 (1) (a)
Fourteen members who are registered in terms of Section 31(1)(a) and (b).

Section 5 (1) (b)
(i) One person must be an officer of the National Department of Health;
(ii) One person must have special knowledge of the law;
(iii) One person must have special knowledge of financial matters;
(iv) One person must have special knowledge of pharmacy;
(v) One person must have special knowledge of education;
(vi) One person must have knowledge of consumer affairs,
(vii) Three persons must represent communities;
(viii) One person must be registered in terms of section 31 (1) (c) and 31 (1) (d).

The Chairperson is appointed by the Minister of Health after consultation with the Council. At the first meeting of the Council the members must elect a vice chairperson from the categories mentioned in section 31(1)(a) and (b). The term of office for the Council is five years.

Committees of Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>ICT Governance Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit and Risk Committee</td>
<td>Impairment Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Marketing Committee</td>
<td>Laws, Practice and Standards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>Preliminary Investigating Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Professional Conduct Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources and Remuneration Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The eRegister is published in terms of section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005 as a copy of the active records in the official register of the South African Nursing Council. The SANC has made an eRegister facility available on the SANC website, which can be utilized by employers to verify the registration status of all nurse practitioners in their employment. Employers are urged to utilise this facility in the absence of a physical Annual Practising Certificate (APC). Visit: [http://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx](http://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx)

### Service-oriented email addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
<th>TYPE OF ENQUIRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:apc@sanc.co.za">apc@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>APC related enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:customerservice@sanc.co.za">customerservice@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Complaints, compliments, service requests, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:restoration@sanc.co.za">restoration@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Restoration enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:foreign@sanc.co.za">foreign@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Foreign registration enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:exams@sanc.co.za">exams@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Examination enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:personaldetails@sanc.co.za">personaldetails@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Change of personal details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:cpd@sanc.co.za">cpd@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>CPD enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:professionalpractice@sanc.co.za">professionalpractice@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Preliminary investigation and unfitness to practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:professionalconduct@sanc.co.za">professionalconduct@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Professional conduct issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:education@sanc.co.za">education@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>New curriculum, Community Service, courses, nursing schools etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:devices@sanc.co.za">devices@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Purchasing of distinguishing devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:basicqualifications@sanc.co.za">basicqualifications@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Commencement and completion of Community Service. Any Midwifery, Bridging and Psychiatry, Auxiliary and Enrolled Nursing enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:additionalqualifications@sanc.co.za">additionalqualifications@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Additional qualification enquiries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:learnersdesk@sanc.co.za">learnersdesk@sanc.co.za</a></td>
<td>Any learner registration related enquiries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The eRegister is published in terms of section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005 as a copy of the active records in the official register of the South African Nursing Council. The SANC has made an eRegister facility available on the SANC website, which can be utilized by employers to verify the registration status of all nurse practitioners in their employment. Employers are urged to utilise this facility in the absence of a physical Annual Practising Certificate (APC). Visit: [http://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx](http://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx)
Nurses of South Africa should pride themselves on the liberation from being regulated by other health professionals.