

80 Years

OF SELF-REGULATION

1944 - 2024



CORPORATE  
**PROFILE**



**South African Nursing Council**  
*Regulating nursing, advocating for the public*

# HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL

## SANC HISTORY

The nursing profession in South Africa obtained self-regulation on 08 November 1944. The Council held its first Council meeting, and legally enforceable registration was accomplished.

This was given impetus by pressure from the nursing profession and the memorandum presented to the Commission of Health Services by Sharley Cribb, the Organizing Secretary of the *South African Trained Nurses Association*.

1



1944

2

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;
- Beginning of transformation by eliminating the stipulation of "whites-only" nurses as Council members. Nursing Act, 1978 and repeal of reference to race - Nursing Act, 1992.

3

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 Cheryl 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

4

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.



# HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL

5

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.



2001

6

The then Minister of Health, Dr M Tshabalala-Msimang set up a Ministerial task team in 2001, which revised 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.



2005

7

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.

8

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.

The Impairment Committee was established in 2008 to manage practitioners who cannot execute nursing duties with reasonable skills and safety. While this is to protect the interest of the healthcare user, the affected nurse or midwife is supported by the Council in that, among other things, fees for therapists and rehabilitative services are paid for by the Council if a practitioner is unemployed and therefore unable to pay for their own treatment.

9



2008

12



In 2019 the SANC launched its new logo and slogan as part of celebrating the SANC's 75th anniversary whilst keeping the Seal of the SANC.

11

2019

Introduction of Higher Education Sub-framework-aligned nursing qualification necessitated that the Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) had to resubmit curricula for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for accreditation before such programmes could be offered in line with Section 4(2)(f) of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005)



10

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.



13

Regulations relating to the approval and the minimum requirements for the education and training of a student leading to registration as a Nurse Specialist or a Midwife Specialist (No. 635 of 5 June 2020)

Regulations regarding the registration for learner/student nurses and learner/student midwives (No. 519 of 11 May 2020)

2020

14

In line with the mandate of Section 4(1)(d) of the Nursing Act 2005, a Monitoring and Evaluation Section was established in 2021 to carry out quality control inspections and ensure that accredited NEIs maintained the Education and Training standards. The standards were reviewed and approved by Council in 2022

2021

15

Regulations regarding the Scope of Practice for Nurses and Midwives (No. 2127 of 2 June 2022) was promulgated by the Minister in line with Section 58 of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005)

2022

16

CPD system prioritised in 2019, Framework approved by Council in 2021. Piloting in all provinces commenced in 2022. CPD rules approved by Council in 2022 and published in the Gazette.

2023

80 Years OF SELF-REGULATION 1944 - 2024

2024

18



The SANC introduced the Nursing Excellence Awards (NEA) in May 2023. The aim of the SANC NEA is to confer annual Excellence Awards for outstanding service by nurses, who are in good standing with the SA Nursing Council, and Nursing Institutions, within their chosen field. The Awards aim to motivate nurses to improve and uphold the standard of nursing in South Africa.

17



The SANC unveiled a Wall of Remembrance on 29 March 2023 in memory of those nurses who succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic - a constant reminder about the daily sacrifices that nurses make, often at the cost of themselves and their families and often under difficult conditions.



## Vision and Mission

### Vision

Leadership in regulating nursing and advocating for the public.

### Mission

To protect health care users by regulating and advancing the nursing profession in South Africa.

### Guided by the values:

- Advocacy
- Accountability
- Caring
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Professionalism

### Mandate

Statutory professional body mandated to regulate the Nursing and Midwifery professions by establishing and maintaining nursing education and training as well as practice standards, while advocating for the interests of the public.

# 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
- (e) 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; 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.



# SANC Business Areas

## DIVISIONS

Office of the Registrar and CEO

Professional Affairs

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Corporate Services

## DEPARTMENTS

Legal Affairs

Professional Practice

Finance

Information and Communications  
Technology

Internal Audit and Risk Management

Provider Affairs

Supply Chain Management

Human Resources

Council Secretariat

Learner Affairs

Communication and Marketing

## SECTIONS

Strategic Planning, Monitoring  
and Evaluation

Records and Registry

Facilities

# eREGISTER

The eRegister is published in terms of Section 35 of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No 33 of 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>

# 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.



**South African Nursing Council**  
*Regulating nursing, advocating for the public*

## Committees of Council

Audit and Risk Committee

Communication and Marketing Committee

COVID-19 Command Committee

Education Committee

Executive Committee of the Council

Finance Committee

Human Resources and Remuneration Committee

Impairment Committee

Information and Communication Technology Governance Committee

Laws, Practice and Standards Committee

Preliminary Investigating Committee

Professional Conduct Committee

Research Committee

# SERVICE DELIVERY

## Service email addresses

EMAIL ADDRESS	TYPE OF ENQUIRY
additionalqualifications@sanc.co.za	Additional Qualifications
apc@sanc.co.za	APC related enquiries
basicqualifications@sanc.co.za	Basic Qualifications
cpd@sanc.co.za	CPD enquiries
customerservice@sanc.co.za	Complaints, compliments, service requests, etc.
devices@sanc.co.za	Purchasing of distinguishing devices
exams@sanc.co.za	Examination enquiries
foreign@sanc.co.za	Foreign registration enquiries
learnersdesk@sanc.co.za	Learners Desk
personaldetails@sanc.co.za	Change of personal details
professionalconduct@sanc.co.za	Professional conduct issues
professionalpractice@sanc.co.za	Preliminary Investigation and unfitness to practice
restoration@sanc.co.za	Restoration enquiries

## Service Standards Charter

A service charter is a public document that sets out the standards of service that service beneficiaries can expect from a department. It also provides for complaints mechanisms.

The SANC Service Charter stipulates the Council's service standards, contact details as well as mechanisms of redress within the service areas.

Visit: [www.sanc.co.za/sscharter](http://www.sanc.co.za/sscharter)



**South African Nursing Council**

*Regulating nursing, advocating for the public*



Cecilia Makiwane Building,  
602 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria 0083  
Private Bag X132, Pretoria 0001,  
Republic of South Africa



Tel: 012 420 1000  
Fax: 012 343 5400  
Fraud Hotline: 0800 20 12 16



website: [www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za)  
[customerservice@sanc.co.za](mailto:customerservice@sanc.co.za)

