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# Child and Youth Care

A Journal for Those Who Work With Children and Youth at Risk and Their Families

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Ann Skelton and Linda Ramadi

Inauguration Ceremony of The First Professional Boards for Social Work, and Child and Youth Care  
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Ashley Theron



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# Fanfare and Celebrations... This is Really Happening!

Merle Allsopp

On the 7th of April the inauguration of the Professional Boards for both Child and Youth Care and Social Work took place in Pretoria. The event was preceded by a briefing session with the media, where the role of these bodies was explained to the public. Child and Youth Care has devoted six pages to covering the event in this issue. Readers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these developments, and their implications for people working in social services. This day has been so long awaited, that it is tempting to come to the conclusion that "nothing is really happening" with regard to the regulation of child and youth care. We have been talking about this Professional Board for six or seven years - since in fact, the law was amended to allow for the establishment of regulatory bodies for all occupational groups. Hopefully the information in this issue, positive as it is, will convince us all that the process of regulating child and youth care workers has now begun in earnest!

Included in these pages is an abridged version of the media briefing document prepared by the members of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care, and delivered by the appointed Chairperson of the Board, Dr Sunathi Fisha. Although child and youth care has been accepted as a unique profession within the social service professions, many of us (both within and without the profession) struggle to describe, define and articulate the exact nature of the profession. This media briefing document spells out the key roles and functions of the profession for all to ponder and debate - and hopefully become a referenc document for all who

may be called upon to speak up for our new profession.

For it must be realized that each and every child and youth care worker is an advertisement (either positive or negative) for the profession. Whilst the work of the Professional Board will play a significant role in the process of professionalizing the field, it is the responsibility of every worker to contribute in their immediate surroundings to this process. Being able to say what it is that we are, what we do, and why we have a contribution to make in the provision of social services in South Africa, is the responsibility of each and every worker. As we use our opportunities to do this, each one of us makes our personal contribution to the development of the field. It cannot be expected that it is now up to the Professional Board alone to professionalise the field. Each of us has a role to play in the process. We do so by knowing who we are, speaking up about it and showing in our actions what child and youth care really is.

The intentions of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care are laid out in the media briefing document, and these provide a clear sense of the activities to be undertaken in respect of regulating the field. It is recognized that child and youth care workers are eager to register, and the Board is mindful of the need to move swiftly to create the necessary mechanisms and structures. So the long and the short of the matter is that the process of regulating the child and youth care field, at a statutory level is really happening! ●



## NACCW

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

**The National Association of Child Care Workers is an independent, non-profit organisation in South Africa which provides the professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and to improve standards of care and treatment for troubled children and youth at risk in family, community and residential group care settings.**

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