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Child & Youth Care Work

A Journal for Those Who Work with Orphaned, Vulnerable and At-risk
Children and Youth and their Families

Child and Youth Care is Not Rocket Science:
It's FAR More Complex Than That - Prof James Anglin

Report on the First NACCW Biennial Conference :
Cape Town 1977 - Brian Gannon



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS



Stepping forward to be registered

It is a fact! South African child and youth care workers are stepping forward to be registered!

By Merle Allsopp

As we went to print with this issue of *Child & Youth Care Work*, over 6500 child and youth care workers had submitted applications to be registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions in terms of various sections of the Social Services Professions Act 110 Of 1978. There can be no doubt that this is an overwhelming vote of confidence for the regulation process. There can also be no doubt that this is an indication of what the NACCW has been saying for so many years – that South African field of child and youth care work is ready and willing to be a recognized profession. The numbers speak very loudly indeed.

SO WELL DONE TO OUR FIELD! WELL DONE TO EACH AND EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORKER WHO HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO BE REGISTERED.

I hope that all who have done so pat themselves on the back! Each of us who has registered has, in swiftly moving on the call to register, made a contribution to the development of our field. Your single application means a lot. You have braved that difficult form, gathered all your documents, submitted all of this to the SACSSP and made a financial contribution.

But what you have done on another level is so much more than that. For, in registering, you have done the most responsible thing you can do (outside of practicing well and developing your skills) for the development of our profession. You have added yourself to the list of child and youth care workers who are, in this act of registering, saying to society, to other professions, to the children and families with whom you work "I embrace the registration requirements for child and youth care workers and wish to step forward as part of a regulated, recognized profession, and I undertake to practice ethically."

I have no doubt that we have surprised many people in coming forward with such large numbers of people applying. The fact that over 6500 people have applied for registration (and the number is growing) shows that the field is made up of a willing, involved, active, developing, vibrant, motivated group of people who see the value in being part of a collective process of this nature. The numbers speak for themselves. They speak louder than the voice of any single person can ever do.

Hopefully the next months will see more and more child and youth care workers applying to register, and soon we will have a registered workforce of double the number we now have.

Getting our field to register is in a way just the start. There is a long road of advocacy ahead. But the fact that we have such numbers of applications for registration provides crucial legitimacy to the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. It can now speak as the statutory voice of a known and identifiable group of professionals, and this will make its work in improving the status and dignity of the field that much easier to negotiate.

I so look forward to receiving my certificate of registration. I will hang it on my wall as a constant reminder of our twenty-year struggle to reach this point – and to remind me of the exciting road of advocacy ahead in raising child and youth care work to where it needs to be in our country.

So congratulations to all who have stepped forward to be registered! ■

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