Dear members

2017 is here – we look forward to a productive and healthy year for all our members.

The word “watershed” is defined as an event is a watershed in the history or development of something, it is very important because it represents the beginning of a new stage in it. **We are working very hard to ensure that 2017 will be a watershed year for PNPs.**

The focus for the year is to try to address the issues relating to the regulation of private practice for nurses, where legislation and regulations recognise what we do and the value of our services to the communities which we serve.

The regulations to be addressed urgently include Acts or Omissions which affect our ability to practice and make our services known. December has seen a shift in attitude from various parties with whom we have not been able to meet recently.

We had a meeting with the Board of Healthcare Funders this week (11 January), and have also had a positive response to our request for an appointment with the Acting Registrar of the Nursing Council.

We have also received the Draft regulations for licensing our practices in future, which we sent you earlier today. These are the Draft regulations **Norms And Standards Regulations Applicable To Different Categories Of Health Establishments.** It is critical that we go through them as this will be the basis of any future practice license.

**Meetings of note in the last quarter of 2016**

We had a very successful meeting in October with Ms Veronica Taschl who is responsible for Stakeholders in the office of the Chief Nursing Officer of the National Dept of Health, regarding the regulatory framework.

We collaborated with NEA and SASOHN and hosted a useful workshop of the various Professional Societies at the end of November, specifically to address the current challenges regarding Post Basic Education, and Practice for Professional Nurses working in different fields of specialisation. There have been a few recommendations which have come out, but we will be working pro-actively to engage with the Nursing Council and Department of Health. By collaborating with other organisations, we represent a larger number of nurses.
Legislation and Regulation

As such Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act of 2005 needs to be addressed so that PNPs practices can be recognised as “organisation performing any health service designated by the Director-General” (see below). The regulations regarding the ability to prescribe and dispense are also critical to enable those with specific clinical specialties to obtain licenses to practice primary health care in particular.

Below is an extract from the Nursing Act, 33 of 2005. In the absence of this recognition as well appropriate regulations, we will continue to experience the current barriers to practice.

Extract from Nursing Act 33 of 2005:

Special provisions relating to certain nurses
56. (1) Despite the provisions of this Act or any other law, the Council may register a person who is registered in terms of section 31(1)(a), (b) or (c) to assess, diagnose, prescribe treatment, keep and supply medication for prescribed illnesses and health related conditions, if such person

(a) provides proof of completion of prescribed qualification and training;
(b) pays the prescribed registration fee; and
(c) complies with subsection 6.

(6) Despite the provisions of this Act, the said Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965, the Pharmacy Act, 1974 (Act No. 53 of 1974), and the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act NO. 56 of 1974), a nurse who is in the service of-

(a) the national department;
(b) a provincial department of health;
(c) a municipality; or
(d) an organisation performing any health service designated by the Director-General after consultation with the South African Pharmacy Council referred to in section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1974,

and who has been authorised by the Director-General, the head of such provincial department of health, the medical officer of health of such municipality or the medical practitioner in charge of such organisation, as the case may be, may in the course of such service perform with reference to-

(i) the physical examination of any person;
(ii) the diagnosing of any physical defect, illness or deficiency in any person; or
(iii) the keeping of prescribed medicines and their supply, administering or prescribing on the prescribed conditions;

any act which the said Director-General, head of provincial department of health, medical officer of health or medical practitioner, as the case may be, may, after consultation with the Council, determine in general or in a particular case or in cases of a particular nature, if the services of a medical practitioner or pharmacist, as the circumstances may require, are not available.

Tariffs and codes

While we cannot work directly on setting tariffs as this is considered anti-competitive or collusion, we can address the challenges of procedural codes and prescribed minimum benefits. However, to do this we need to know from you, our members, which codes need to be developed. If you are unsure what is meant by this, please chat to one of the committee members, or Cindi. We sent out requests for information guidelines to everyone in December and are still waiting for feedback.

Reminders

SANC fees
If any of you have not paid your SANC fees (and we have had a few phone calls since the office reopened on Tuesday) please remember that you will have to apply for restoration as well as pay your fees.
Society membership
Your SPNP membership fees are now due. Once they are paid, we will send you the updated suggested tariffs for 2017. At the end of March, we will remove the access to the members only portion of the website for those who have not renewed.

Indemnity Insurance
Please ensure that you make the necessary arrangements to renew your Indemnity insurance, with either Indemnus, AccuProf or Denosa. Indemnus is due at the end of February, but they do not send out renewals, so please follow up.

Section 21A Permits
Permit to obtain and keep medications for administration. Please refer to the emails we sent out in December regarding the renewals for these permits as they expire after 3 years, but must be reapplied for. There is no cost involved.

Dispensing licenses
For those of you who do have Section 22C Dispensing licenses please remember that you are required to pay an annual fee in June each year. If you have not been doing so, please check the email for the address to whom you need to request a balance for outstanding fees in order for the license to be reinstated.

BHF / PCNS fees
These are due for renewal at the beginning of each year. If you do not receive notification from them, follow up with them! If you are not current, the funders can reject your claims.

Upcoming meetings
Although there is no National meeting this year, please get your thinking caps on for the KZN conference in 2018.
In the meantime, your regional meetings will continue on a monthly (Cape) or quarterly (KZN & Gauteng) basis – please watch the website and keep an eye on your emails for meeting dates.

All branches will be holding AGMs in February or March – our Society is only as strong as its participating members. Please consider being part of a committee as the more people who assist, the easier it is to spread the workload.

Please click on the link which follows to see the most awesome Tribute to Nurses - https://careforthecaregiver.me/2016/05/22/video-tribute-its-a-nurse/

Follow us on Twitter on #NursesAreCritical @spn pnational or Facebook on @SPNP SA
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Wishing you every strength and success in your practices this year.

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