

ASCHP APRIL 21 CIRCULAR

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ASCHP

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FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

There is currently a strong movement driven by UNESCO to strengthen educational, geographical, humanitarian, cultural, scientific and socioeconomic development in Africa in alignment to global cooperation. Central to this initiative is the project to promote inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong opportunities for all.

As stakeholder in this initiative the ASCHP is proud to announce that it was invited to participate in the consultative workshop on the ratification of the Global Convention in collaboration with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), the three Quality Councils and the Educational Sector Committee of the South African National Commission for UNESCO.

ASCHP initiatives

In the spirit of this development the ASCHP is committed to:

- Continue searching and finding ways to collaborate with global wellness and counselling enterprises in order to network on broader scale for the development and enrichment of our members. In this regard we have already joined the Africa counsellors movement to help establish counselling as an occupation internationally.
- Encourage members to contribute to development of counselling services nationally by providing valuable and relevant inputs from personal counselling experience and case studies. In accordance with this we invite all members to participate in an initiative to deal with the Covid pandemic from a wellness perspective. We are launching a competition to evaluate significant contributions to ways to combat the pandemic either by (1) effective counselling strategies to help people cope, or (2) innovative healthcare protocols to support people susceptible to infections. Further details and enrolment forms can be obtained from our offices for those interested in entering the **21 Covid competition**. Entries will close end of June '21.

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- Broaden our base of accredited training providers in the wellness and counselling domains. In this vein the ASCHP has already commissioned e-learning programmes to make training more accessible and affordable. The ASCHP will continue to link up with suitable accredited training providers abroad and local to help members upgrade qualifications via the RPL process.
 - Design a strategy for members to obtain in the near future CEU (Continues Education Units) for completing designated CPD training. This will enable participants to accumulate academic credits towards a qualification in wellness/counselling as they gradually proceed with CPD training. We plan to launch this programme early 2022 to add further value to our members.

Lose not yourself in a far off time, seize the moment that is thine ~ Friedrich Schiller

News items

The ASCHP advisory board and management are grateful to announce that it has passed the 5 year audit cycle (virtual site visit 12 January 2021) with flying colours and that the its membership was renewed under the description:

“A non-statutory professional body established in 1995 to represent the interest of non-psychological counsellors in South Africa. It is also a platform for evaluating and regulating community counselling to ensure greater access to ethical and professional counselling services.”

The criteria that were met include the following

- Good corporate governance
- Transformation
- Human resources
- Premises

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- Financial resources
 - Awarding of professional designations
 - Recognition of prior learning
 - Continuing professional development
 - Membership database
 - Career advice information
 - Code of conduct and protection of the public
 - Education and training
 - The proliferation of professional bodies
 - Professional designations

Notes

Legal constitution. The ASCHP advisory board has recommended that within the next year the entity should convert from a private company (Pty) Ltd to an NPC (non profit company) with CIPC which will be more in line with its mission and vision. Such a transition will not affect membership in any way.

NLRD upload. The compulsory annual upload on to the National Learner Database was successfully done by the ASCHP office on 15th April 2021. We congratulate all our staff members for their hard work in preparing for the upload.

CPD training.

The recent CPD audit brought to light the following statistics:

Members not CPD compliant 2018: 27%

Members not CPD compliant 2019: 44%

2020 only 30% complied up to date.

SAQA expects the professional bodies to suspend and terminate non-compliant members which we will unfortunately be obliged to do in the future.

Members should please take cognizance of the fact that CPD training is NOT optional but a membership condition that we take very seriously. Our CPD policies provide various ways of completing CPD training and if you're unsure, please request and

consult these policies to be made available to you, or contact us to explain your



position should you need assistance. No one has an excuse not to do CPD's for we have made it possible to do CPD training as part of group reflection of their daily counselling process, regular meetings and reading of books. This means that financial considerations, neither time constraints can be counted as non-compliance factors. Some counsellors that we know about, also present seminars and talks from time to time and these records may also count as external CPD recognition if submitted.

The ASCHP cannot continue to issue warnings for members were expected to commit themselves to CPD compliance upon registration. In the future the suspension process will be followed without pre-warnings and could lead to final termination of membership.

We believe and experience daily that professional membership has great value for many reasons, *inter alia*:



- The right to advertise yourself as professional counsellor in distinction from a lay counsellor
- The privilege to legally charge consultation fees
- The opportunity to network with other professionals such as physicians, psychologists and social workers.
- The peace of having the benefit of enjoying protection in disciplinary matters and legal proceedings
- The status of belonging to a professional body and being designated in terms of NQF listed categories.
- The standing of practicing a recognized occupation in South Africa
- The pride of knowing you have complied with the requirements that we owe to the public in terms of continuous professional development.

We do want to congratulate those members who up to date and committed to fulfil their membership obligations. They are not doing it for us, but for their own benefit.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Kind regards
Dr Liezl Herholdt
