

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

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May 2002

Dear Colleague

### **NEWS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS**

We are nearly halfway through our term of office and so many things have happened at the Professional Board that we would like to inform you about. We trust that you would find the information relevant and useful.

#### **1. Strategic initiatives of the Board**

As previously communicated to you, we have set a number of strategic initiatives for the current term of office, namely to:

- improve on communication between the Professional Board and Dietitians
- protect the profession against unregistered people
- evaluate and update training guidelines
- plan and implement a CPD programme
- change the representativity of the Board.

##### **1.1 Communication**

As part of our goal of running a cost-effective Professional Board, we have decided that although communication to our members is vitally important, we are not going to print our own newsletter (as many of the other Professional Boards are doing) in order to cut costs. Instead, we will make use of all available opportunities of passing information to you through existing channels. The latter include the South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition and the HPCSA Bulletin. Once the website of the HPCSA is up and running, we will utilize that option as well.

##### **1.2 Protecting the profession**

The Professional Board and the Council of the HPCSA have approved the establishment of registers for Nutritionists and Food Service Managers. This was submitted to the Minister of Health for promulgation. The Professional Board, in consultation with relevant role players, is working on the scope of practice and the educational and training requirements for persons to be registered as Nutritionists and Food Service Managers. Through negotiations with the Department of Health, we have also been able to "secure" jobs for registered dietitians in the sense that positions for people performing the work of dietitians are now being filled appropriately and the requirement for registration with the HPCSA is now included in the relevant advertisements. The Committee of Preliminary Inquiry of the Board is also dealing with complaints regarding unprofessional conduct of registered practitioners referred to the Professional Board for Dietetics.

##### **1.3 Training**

The new entry-level requirements (previously known as the minimum requirements for entry into the profession of dietetics) have been finalised and implemented at all the universities. As of 2003, University evaluations will be done according to the new guidelines.

##### **1.4 CPD**

Please see the attached letter for CPD feedback.

##### **1.5 Representativity**

With only 2 years of our term of office remaining, we would like to urge you to start thinking and discussing which new people you would like to see on the Board for the next term of office. The Council of the HPCSA and all the Professional Boards have adopted a resolution, which states that at least 60% of all elected members of

Boards must in future be from previously disadvantaged communities. This is an important principle that must be remembered when nominating and electing new members.

## 2. Finances

One of the consequences of being a Board of our own (and not amalgamated with 1 or 2 other Boards) is the financial burden attached thereto. Each Board has to be financially independent. We have tried (and continue to do so) to cut on all unnecessary costs. We only have 2 full Board meetings per year. The CPD and Education Committees "meet" via telephone when necessary. The actual expense controlled by the Board members is thus kept to a minimum. Unfortunately, the HPCSA is a huge organisation with many staff members. Therefore, the majority of our Board's expenses are for administrative and staff-related matters.

On the following table you can see the financial outline of the Professional Board since our term of office started in May 1999. As can be seen the actual expenses regarding staff and administrative-related matters exceed 80% of the total expenses of the Board. The latter expenses we have no control over. We are fully aware of the dramatic increase in annual fees, but if we value our independence, this is a price that we will have to pay. We do believe, though, that by increasing our membership numbers with the 2 new registers joining, the individual fees will not be so harsh in the future.

As was communicated to you earlier, the Professional Board has agreed to pay 15% of the annual membership fees for the year 2000 and 2001 towards the setting up of the CPD office. Unfortunately, when we asked for the payment to be made, the Board's money was already been spent on other matters. We were forced to ask for a loan from Council in order to honor our commitment to the ADSA CPD Accreditor. This, however, resulted in the 27% increase in the membership fees for this year. The annual reminders for the year 2002 were initially held back until our negotiations with Council re the loan was finalised. Hence, you probably all only received your reminders recently. We apologize for any confusion that may have arisen due to this. It would be much appreciated if you could pay the fees as soon as possible. Please remember that annual fees and expenses incurred in respect of attending CPD activities are tax deductible.

Category	1999 Actual figures	2000 Actual figures	2001 Actual figures	2002 Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Fees	R287 149-35	R365 198-77	R406 026-71	R580 114-00
Other	R100 413-93	R66 101-37	R114 309-63	R87 665-80
<b>Total</b>	<b>R387 563-28</b>	<b>R431 300-14</b>	<b>R520 336-34</b>	<b>R667 779-80</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Board meetings/evaluations	R116 579-86 (28%)*	R90 399-17 (18%)*	R88 966-32 (17%)*	R182 544-00 (27%)* ♥
Council/staff/admin	R290 896-08 (71%)*	R401 399-57 (82%)*	R424 513-62 (83%)*	R485 040-00 (73%)*
<b>Total</b>	<b>R407 411-88</b>	<b>R491 798-74</b>	<b>R513 479-94</b>	<b>R667 584-00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-R19 848-60</b>	<b>-R60 498-60</b>	<b>+R6 856-40</b>	<b>+R195-00</b>
		23% increase in fees	5% increase in fees	27% increase in fees

\* Percentage of total expenses

♥ This includes the re-payment of the loan to the HPCSA

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We will try to address them as quickly as possible,

All the best for the rest of the year.

Kind regards

**DR RENÉE BLAAUW**

**CHAIRPERSON: PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS**