

Media Statement

HPCSA-ALIGNED BOARD COMMEMORATES WORLD OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DAY

25 October 2023

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotics, Prosthetics and Arts Therapy, operating under the ambit of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), commemorates World Occupation Day on Friday, 27 October 2023 under the theme: “Unity through Community”. The South African Occupational Therapy community has added “Unity through community: embracing change to reflect the ethos of occupational therapists in South Africa”.

World Occupational Therapy Day was first declared in 2010 by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Since then, the day has become an important feature in both local and international health awareness calendars.

Occupational therapy is a health profession which enables healthcare practitioners to utilise therapeutic techniques to improve, rehabilitate, or maintain a patient’s motor skills and overall ability to perform daily activities. Occupational therapists are therefore responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of intervention for clients with physical, mental, developmental, and emotional challenges or conditions that impact their ability to perform everyday tasks.

In line with the adopted theme, the Board will continue to engage various stakeholders to promote the work and activities of occupational therapists within communities. Furthermore, through this awareness campaign the Board aims at upholding its mandate of protecting the public and guiding the professions through information sharing initiatives relating to the important role and impact that occupational therapy interventions play.

Through these stakeholder engagement drives, the Board continues to make occupational therapy services more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups in all spheres of society.

In keeping with its mandate of protecting the public and guiding the profession, the Board is issuing a newsletter to raise awareness of the role of occupational therapy in different spheres of healthcare especially in primary healthcare and in the community.

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About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council, is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects of education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

To safeguard the public and guide the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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