



Media Statement

HPCSA in collaboration with SANCA “Kick Your Habit”

Drug Awareness Week

26 June 2019

For immediate release

Pretoria - The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the South African Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA Pretoria) are embarking on a collaboration to create awareness and educate both the practitioners and the public on substance abuse.

The Health Committee within the HPCSA, is a non-punitive Committee that provides support for practitioners who may have a problem with amongst others, drug and substance abuse. This committee should be seen as a health and wellness committee. A special Task Team in the Office of the Registrar has also been set-up by Council to develop strategies to support practitioners in distress.

SANCA is a non-profit organisation that is committed to the treatment, prevention and creating awareness of drug dependence within all nine provinces of South Africa. With more than 60 years' experience in the field, it is one of the leading organisations fighting the ever-increasing substance use and abuse rates within the country. Substance dependency statistics show that drug consumption (cannabis, cocaine, and Tik) in South Africa is twice the global average and second to none in Africa (UN World Drug Report, 2014). The average age of drug dependency in South Africa is 12 years and decreasing. South Africa is among the top 10 narcotics and alcohol abusers in the world.

Each year, SANCA observes drug awareness week, this year it will be celebrated from 24 – 30 June 2019. In this week, the ‘Kick Your Habit’ campaign will raise awareness on the complexities related to addiction and dependence.

The aim of the collaboration is to create awareness and educate both practitioners and the public who are dependent on drugs and substance abuse and require assistance. This campaign will also provide an opportunity for the public to report those practitioners who are abusing drug substances. This will also assist to de-stigmatise persons who are addicted to drugs. SANCA is one of the centres that offers rehabilitation services.

The drive to continue using is more often fuelled by the psychological and physical needs of the dependent individual and treatment is usually more complex than just stopping. In our communities we are affected by substance abuse and dependency hence it is important to raise this awareness.

END

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 pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and guiding the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

Issued jointly by: Health Professions Council of South Africa and South African Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

Daphney Chuma
Head of Division: Corporate Affairs
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Tel: 012 338 9481
Cell: 071 680 8111
Email: daphneyc@hpcsa.co.za

Celeste du Preez
Chief Executive Officer
South African Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Tel:012 542 1121
Email: celeste@sancapta.co.za

Karabo Kolokoto
Operations Manager
South African Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Cell: 0671458621
Email: Karabok@sancapta.co.za