



Association for Supportive Counsellors
& Holistic Practitioners NPC
Reg no: 2012/221416/08
SAQA recognized professional body (ID 984)
with NQF registered designations

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ASCHP SPECIAL CIRCULAR MARCH 2025

Dear Esteemed Member,

Please take a few minutes to read the content attentively, it is very important as you will see.

Re. HPCSA members protest

From time we become aware of protest action from HPCSA members (psychologists) against the ASCHP. The gist of the matter is always the same: Allegations that some ASCHP Counsellors...

- Practice illegally
- That they transgress scope of practice
- That they are not duly qualified to counsel
- That they lack the necessary credentials or training
- That counsellors diagnose and treat

Of course, these allegations are not verified by psychologists and show a great amount of ignorance. It is more of an emotional response as if they are threatened. One psychologist recently wrote *"More and more I see the mental health field flooded with people calling themselves wellness coaches..."* My first reaction in reading this statement was to think that it seems as if people are taking note of us, which is probably a good, rather than bad thing.

We do find that the first reaction of our members is to enter the debate by defending us, and although we appreciate the loyalty, it is not necessary. As a matter of fact, the more we say, the bigger the dispute becomes. Reality is, the ASCHP will take this matter up with the HPCSA directly, it is our task to protect the occupation and promote the industry. Something that we constantly and actively pursue.

I want to formulate a minimum response that you as member can use when confronted by an HPCSA member –

Standard response:

People who claim that ASCHP members are guilty of the abovementioned transgressions are spreading unverified rumours that manifest blatant ignorance. As far as the ASCHP is concerned we can confirm that in terms of our policies, mandate and scope of practice:

- ***Members do not practice illegally as they are designated***
- ***That members are obliged to stay at all times within scope of practice***
- ***That members are credentialed to counsel due to being professionally qualified***
- ***Members are obliged to complete CPD training to remain relevant***
- ***The wellness way does not provide for diagnosis and treatment***



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Any person who has reason to believe that an ASCHP member has overstepped scope of practice, are welcome to follow the normal route to report this as a disciplinary case to the ASCHP (counsellor.complaints@aschp.net) to be processed. It is not ethically becoming for any member from one body to bad mouth a member of another body. ASCHP members are committed to work with psychologists when needs be by doing referrals.

Please continue with the good work that you are doing.
Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Liezl Herholdt
CEO ASCHP