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Dear Ms Majalamba

### **SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL INPUT ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL**

1. The South African Nursing Council welcomes the National Health Insurance, an initiative to improve access to quality of health services in the Republic of South Africa.
2. As a regulator of the nursing profession and in the interest of access to quality health care for the service users, SANC recommend the following improvements on the NHI Bill as published.

### **3. Definitions**

#### **3.1 Emergency medical treatment**

SANC suggests that definition of Emergency medical treatment be added to ensure that there is common understanding of what would entail such in the interest of human life preservation.

#### **3.2 Emergency Medical Services**

SANC suggests that Emergency medical services be the redefined as Emergency Health Services, in order to include emergency care provided by all health professionals, doctors, allied health practitioners, including nurses.



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### **3.3 Healthcare Professional**

The term should be defined to mean any persons registered with the health statutory councils in South Africa.

### **3.4 Primary Health Care Nurse**

The definition should be included as defined by SANC, a professional nurse capable of providing direct patient care for all types of illnesses and ailments, offering first level of nursing care and is competent to independently render appropriate and skilled primary care service. The **primary care nursing professional** is (b) is a category not recognised by SANC and must be removed.

## **4. Chapter 2**

### **4.1 Asylum Seekers**

(a) Emergency Medical Services should read Emergency medical treatment in terms of the National Health Act.

## **5. Chapter 6 Constitution and composition of the Board**

### **5.1 Clause 5**

(b) The composition should be clear to include expertise in **health care services provision**, and health care service financing. The NHI fund is a health fund and as such persons with expertise in health services provision should be included.

## **6. Chapter 7 Advisory Committees**

Clause 25.2 Membership of the benefit advisory board should include persons with technical expertise in nursing and pharmacy as these professions are at the frontline of NHI Programme implementation in the context of Primary Health Care Engineering and are not represented by medicine.

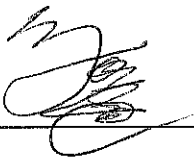
**7. Repeal and Amendment of the legislation affected by the Act**

It is suggested that the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act. 33 of 2005) should be listed in this section for amendment. The promulgation of Regulations for private nurse practice is underway and professional nurse practitioners will offer services through contracting for management of health conditions within their competencies and in line with the scope of practice.

**8. Memorandum on the Objects of the National Health Bill - Strengthening of Primary Health Care Services**

**Clause 4.4.1 The PHC outreach team led by a nurse will be deployed in each municipal ward**

The term supported by the nurse should be deleted and replaced by led by the nurse as nurses are the primary health professional in the first level of the health system and should be empowered to lead the PHC outreach team for quality and patient safety.



**DR MC MOLEPO**

**CHAIRPERSON: SA NURSING COUNCIL**

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