

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 384

31 MARCH 2016

**HIGHER EDUCATION ACT 101 OF 1997 AND
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT 67 OF 2008****CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT POLICY ON MINIMUM
REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PRACTITIONERS AND EDUCATORS IN EARLY
CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.**

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, hereby publish the call for public comments on the *Draft Policy On Minimum Requirements For Programmes Leading To Qualifications In Higher Education For Practitioners And Educators In Early Childhood Care And Education*.

This policy aligns qualifications for Early Childhood Care and Education (birth to 4), (ECCE), with The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework, 2013.

The policy has been developed in consultation with key role players in the field and it describes minimum standards for different types of higher education qualifications for ECCE educators in accordance with their purpose, and level. It provides clear guidelines to higher education institutions for the design of learning programmes for the professional preparation of ECCE (birth – 4) practitioners and educators, and describes the basic competences required of such an educator.

The policy describes minimum requirements for further post professional and postgraduate qualification paths for ECCE (birth - 4) educators: This is aimed, at ensuring that the higher education system, in offering these qualifications, contributes to the continuing professional development of ECCE practitioners and educators whose work involves ECCE.

The policy also describes articulation and progression routes for Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners and educators in possession of historical qualifications obtained before the implementation of The Higher Education Qualifications Framework, 2007, to ensure that clear pathways are created for these practitioners and educators to access further qualifications for professional and career development purposes.

The full text of the *Draft Policy On Minimum Requirements For Programmes Leading To Qualifications In Higher Education For Practitioners And Educators In Early Childhood Care And Education* can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.dhet.gov.za.

All interested parties are invited to comment on the draft policy in writing, and direct their comments to:

The Director-General, Private Bag X174, Pretoria, 0001, for attention of Dr W Green, Chief Director: Teaching and Learning Development, e-mail: Green.w@dhet.gov.za

Kindly provide the following contact information when submitting comments: name, address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address.

The comments on the *Draft Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Practitioners and Educators in Early Childhood Care and Education* must be submitted not later than 31 days from the date of publication of this notice.

After considering all comments the final *Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Practitioners and Educators in Early Childhood Care and Education* will be published by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of Section 8 (2) (b) of the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008.



Dr BE Nzimande, MP

Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date:

30/03/2016