

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3108

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22 MAY 2026
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

What are the reasons that forensic nurses are not recognised by the SA Nursing Council?
NW3232E

REPLY:

Before 2020, the South African Nursing Council regulations R212 governed post-basic clinical nursing diplomas. These programmes lasted one academic year (44 weeks), included seven recognised qualifications, and did not include forensic nursing. Because forensic nursing was not listed under R212, forensic nursing training completed during that period was generally not registerable or formally recognised by the SANC.

Regulation R212 was replaced by regulation R635. Titled *Regulations Related to the Approval of and the Minimum Requirements for the Education and Training of a Student Leading to Registration as a Nurse Specialist or Midwife Specialist*, it was signed on 24 March 2020 and published on 5 June 2020.

The existing forensic qualification that professional nurses have was not amongst the nursing programmes that were accredited by South African Nursing Council hence it was not included in R212. Currently the Forensic Nursing qualification is listed under R635 which implies that professional nurses that will undergo this programme upon curriculum approval by SANC will be registered under R365 and be recognised as nurse specialists

Nursing Education Institutions intending to offer forensic nursing programmes were invited to submit curricula to the South African Nursing Council for consideration, the Council on Higher Education for accreditation, and the South African Qualifications Authority for qualification registration.

This regulatory shift effectively established a formal professional pathway for forensic nurses in South Africa.

END.