

Onboard

Newsletter of the Social Workers Registration Board

IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMMUNITY

Social Workers who deliver services under the umbrella of Christian social services are important members of the Social Work community.

One indication of the scale and reach of those social services is that the six members of the NZ Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) are responsible for around 500 social service delivery sites in their networks throughout New Zealand.

The members of the NZCCSS are the Anglican Care Network, the Baptist, Catholic, and Presbyterian social services agencies, as well as the Methodist and the Salvation Army churches.

Having been integral to social development and the social fabric of New Zealand for so long there is a risk that the levels and sophistication of social work carried out by NZCCSS members is not as well understood as it could be.

“The range of practical services delivered is all-encompassing,” says Anne Kelly, NZCCSS Policy Advisor. “They fit within the idea of a continuum of services and meeting multiple levels of need”.

Shaun Robinson, CEO of Presbyterian Support East Coast, describes those services as “broad-based social work”.

“Getting alongside people and working flexibly with them is the best way to be responsive to social needs and is at the core of what we do,” says Shaun.

“Amongst the differences our organisations bring to social work are that we come from a heritage of independence from central government and that we operate from a strong values base. This gives us the motivation and ability to be responsive to communities and not be totally



Participants in the Government initiative HIPPY, run by Presbyterian Support East Coast.

driven by government policy or funding. It allows us to include advocacy and social justice in the mix”.

“While we can align what we do to government programmes, such as the home-based HIPPY programme, I believe no one programme can be flexible enough on its own to accommodate the broad-based, complex needs of a family,” says Shaun.

“Making a positive and lasting difference usually means spending a generous amount of time with a family, to build trust and to establish a common-sense, non-threatening open-ended relationship”.

As an example Shaun recalls that after a “solid month” of getting alongside one family, an individual in the family who was struggling with an alcohol and drug dependency developed enough trust with Presbyterian Support workers to seek out and receive practical help. “A year down the track the difference in that individual and, as a result, the whole family, was remarkable”.

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Social Workers
Registration Board
Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

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Michael Greer, Superintendent of the Christchurch Methodist Mission, says Christian social services generally offer a different model of working that is oriented more to addressing causes of social distress than the effects.

“We have made every effort to step away from an old-time charitable model which only ever dealt with effects and today are focused on addressing and helping to put right the cause of difficult circumstances many children, families and individuals face. It’s therefore very important that even though there are funding constraints on all our services, we remain committed to employing the expertise we need, and in providing a high level of job satisfaction”.

“Within our sector, and speaking for the Canterbury region in particular, there is a well-founded sense of working co-operatively together. We are constantly involved in discussing our respective operations which differ in areas such as the age groups we provide and target our services for. Also when we take initiatives we tend not to do so separately,” says Michael.

“State services, and it’s not a criticism, are inevitably interventionist. By contrast we are able to take a more holistic account of the wider context and circumstances in the whanau, communities and regions we work within. It is a luxury in a way to be able to focus on providing services that emphasise prevention, transformation and creating cycles of hope”.

For more information about the NZ Council of Christian Social Services visit:
www.nzccss.org.nz

FROM THE BOARD:

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK

THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS social work practice in a profession dominated by Eurocentric thinking was discussed and debated extensively at the inaugural conference for indigenous social workers hosted by the University of Hawaii (UH) and held at the Makaha Resort on the island of Oahu. The theme “*Indigenous Voices in Social Work: Not Lost in Translation*” was reflected in many of the presentations, expressing the concern of indigenous social workers about losing their identity and their voices in an increasingly multi-culturally focused profession.

Focusing on the intersection of social work and indigenous peoples, from the opening ceremony of the conference to the closing comments, the commonality of world views, history and experiences amongst the participants was articulated continuously. The push for a stronger indigenous identity was a common theme. In his opening address, Jon Kei Matsuoka, Dean of the School of Social Work at UH spoke of the University’s reputation of being a “multicultural” academy by virtue of its diverse cultural composition. He spoke about new initiatives that promote cultural co-existence including “a focus on indigenization, a departure from the multicultural pretext where a western base pervades all other cultures” as a form of “accountability to Pacific constituencies who subscribe to divergent life philosophies”. This positive direction set the scene for three days of stimulating and exciting presentations.

No reira, ma te Atua koutou e tiaki e manaaki



Although the Aotearoa New Zealand contingent represented the largest single indigenous group in attendance, the North American continent’s many attendees came from diverse indigenous groups including the Nisga’a, Seneca, Anishnaabe, Blackfeet, Sahnish, Hidatsa and Latoka Nations as well as the indigenous peoples of Alaska (Alutiiq, Athabaskan) and the American Pacific territory of Guam (Guahan) and its Chamoru people. Australia, and the Pacific Nations of Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga were also well represented as was Papua New Guinea. The hosting Hawai’ian people were overwhelming in their generosity of spirit and hospitality.

Aotearoa New Zealand left the conference having expressed an interest in hosting the next international indigenous social work conference. Watch this space!!

AS NOTED IN THE APRIL edition of *Onboard*, the Board welcomed three new Board members this year: two registered Social Workers, Shona Kapea-Maslin of Gore, and Paula Nes of Auckland; and ‘lay’ member Stuart Macdonald.

Shona adds a depth of experience in community work to the Board and is a member of the Advisory Group for CommunityNet Aotearoa. Paula has a strong background in and commitment to social work in the health sector, and Stuart has worked for many years in relevant areas of policy development and public sector management.



MAORI AND PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND WISDOM

The changing demography of Aotearoa New Zealand indicates an increased requirement for and expectation of a culturally competent social work service to meet the needs of Maori, Pacific and other ethnic and cultural groups.

As per sections 100 and 101 of the SWR Act the Board has appointed two advisory groups to ensure that at all times the Board is able to access the views of maori as tangata whenua via the Maori Advisory Group as well as the views of pacific people via the Pacific Advisory Group.

Maori and Pacific Advisory Group members: Sonny Rauwhero, Pare Rauwhero, Margaret Southwick, Ieti Lima, Neville Baker

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE/REGISTRAR:

INAUGURAL REVIEW HELPS TO SET STRATEGIC DIRECTION

REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION ACT



OUR GREATEST TASK this year has been the review of the Act and its functions.

The Board's primary focus to date has been on establishing an effective voluntary registration system for social workers. The Board is now well placed to take stock of it's work so far and review the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, and the impacts of the policy settings put in place.

The SWRB consulted widely with its stakeholders, receiving responses from many organisations and individuals. We then convened a workshop where attendees could discuss their submissions and perspectives with each other and the Board.

The recommendations of the review are far reaching. Key proposals are:

- a shift to a mandatory registration system for all social workers;
- a move away from full self-funding of all operations of the SWRB through registration fees;
- halving of the cost of achieving and maintaining registration.

The actions resulting from the review are as follows.

During 2007/08, the Board will:

- Develop a set of entry level competencies so that new graduates can achieve limited registration;
- Look for ways to reduce the cost and complexity of registration and assessment of competence;
- Review the way in which practical experience and overseas qualifications are recognised in lieu of an accepted qualification, through the operation of Section 13 of the Act.

The SWRB has asked government for an integrated package of funding to:

- halve fee levels to bring them in line with those of comparable professions;
- promote high standards of practice;
- raise stakeholder and public awareness of social work registration and the system for handling complaints;
- promote and support employer based complaints systems to complement our own complaints and disciplinary system;
- maintain the complaints and disciplinary system without increasing the Disciplinary Levy.

The Report also calls for the government to:

- Agree to amend the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, to provide for a comprehensive system of social worker registration through protection of the title "social worker" and by requiring that functions normally performed by social workers cannot be performed by unregistered persons
- Agree that the registration system be broadened to include limited registration for associated workers. This would enable workers in associated fields to participate in a registration system
- Agree that policy work should be undertaken as soon as possible because of the potentially long lead time for legislative change.

The Board will begin work immediately on the issues it has identified while it awaits feedback from government. We could not have achieved such a thorough and far reaching review without the involvement and consultation of so many stakeholders across the social work sector, and I would like to thank them for their commitment, candour and their constructive approach.

The review report and its recommendations are now before the Minister. The full document can be read on our website www.swrb.org.nz or contact us directly for a copy to be sent to you.

Sen Kelly

SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PLAN FOR REGISTRATION



Students from Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology met with Shannon Pakura, Social Work Professional Advisor

STUDENTS FROM THE Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology met with Shannon Pakura, Social Work Professional Advisor at the SWRB, while on a field trip to Wellington.

The students, who are in their last year of study had come to Wellington to get further knowledge and clarification on Recognised Qualifications and registration. Their time was spent interacting with a variety of government organisations and institutions in the field of social work.

Part of the students time spent at the SWRB was in gaining further information on the registration process and recognition of qualifications. In turn the SWRB took the opportunity to seek evaluation on the current application document and have incorporated some of the students' recommendations in to this review process.

Graduates of the Nelson Marlborough Diploma in Social Work are eligible for a credit transfer into the Bachelor of Social Work degree at Massey University, a degree recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board for the purposes of registration under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003.

2007/08 EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

ANZASW AGM

6.00pm November 28th 2007

Napier – Quality Inn, 311 Marine Parade

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

John Wong presents:

“How to approach the Chinese Community and work with Chinese Clients”

Wednesday 5 December 2007, 11am-4pm

Seminar Room at Te Manawa Museum, Palmerston North

For more information, contact

karenconsultant@e3.net.nz

WORLD CONGRESS OF HEALTH

THE FUTURE NOW: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH

Perth Convention Centre 26-29 March 2008

For more information, contact

kelly@eventsa.com.au

www.eventswa.com.au, 0061 8 9409 8688

IFSW WORLD CONFERENCE 2008

Salvador – Bahia, BRAZIL

16 – 19 August 2008

www.salvadorconvention.co.br

BOARD DATES TO NOTE

The Board's next two meeting dates are 6th and 7th December 2007 and 18th and 19th February 2008

SOCIAL WORK REGISTRATION BOARD OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Outcome	An effective registration system that ensures high standards of social work practice for all New Zealanders			
Our Vision	All Social Workers are registered, are accountable for the way in which they practise and are part of a profession perceived positively by all New Zealanders			
Intermediate Outcomes [OUR GOALS]	Protection All Social Workers are registered to ensure minimum standards	Accountability All Social Workers are accountable for their standards of practice, supported by a Code of Conduct	Professionalism All Social Workers practice within professional standards, supported by a Code of Conduct	Promotion All Social Workers, their employers and the public are aware of and supportive of registration and its benefits
Our Contribution [WHAT WE DO]	Registration process & policy for minimum requirements - Fit & Proper - Recognised qualifications - Practical Experience - Competence - Competence to work with Māori, Pacific, different cultural & ethnic groups	Code of Conduct Complaints & Disciplinary processes (SWRB Employers) Tribunal established	Code of Conduct Information and education on professional standards of practice Ongoing promotion of professional development	Publicity and awareness activities Research and monitoring
Outputs [WHAT WE DELIVER]	Managing the registration of social workers	Considering complaints against registered social workers	Enhancing the professionalism of social workers	Promoting registration and its benefits
Who we work with	All Social Workers Employers of social workers Educators of social workers Social services sector, professional bodies and representative groups Members of the public and users/ consumers of social work services Other Government agencies			

THE ROAD TO REGISTRATION

To apply to register please request a registration pack by contacting our office via email to info@swrb.org.nz or telephone (04) 931 2650

COMPETENCE ASSESSMENTS

All registration applications require provision of completed documentation, including a competence assessment.

The two recognised providers for competence assessment are:

- ANZASW, PO Box 14230, CHRISTCHURCH
Phone (03) 358 6920
or email natoffice@anzasw.org.nz
- Te Ara Aromatawai, PO Box 2637, WELLINGTON
Phone 0800 558 558
or email louisee@tkaito.co.nz

Past issues of Onboard are available on our website, www.swrb.org.nz

Please send feedback about this newsletter or ideas for future topics to onboard@swrb.org.nz

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