

Onboard

Newsletter of the Social Workers Registration Board

A MORE AFFORDABLE COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT OPTION

A new competence assessment process, run by the SWRB, will be trialled from 1 August 2009, making registration and recertification more affordable and less cumbersome. It is expected that the process will be available to all social workers from 1 October 2009.

Competence to practise social work is a key component of the social work registration process and a valid competence assessment certificate is required before being registered. Practising Registered Social Workers are also legally required to be in possession of a current competency certificate. A competency assessment must be completed three months either side of the five-year expiry date of your current competence assessment.

The new competence assessment, provided by the SWRB, will cost \$250, and recertification will cost \$150. In addition, the process has been streamlined and will primarily be a paper-based system.

"After a review in 2007, consultation with industry bodies and a literature review to assist with considerations, the new process has been developed to reduce compliance costs for social workers and their employers, while maintaining confidence in the competence assessment system," says Robyn Corrigan, SWRB Chairperson.

The benefits of the new process for the social work profession are that it:

- attracts social workers who considered registration costs unaffordable
- supports NGO organisations to encourage their social work staff to be registered
- allows the registration process to be managed by the SWRB. Competence is an integral part of the registration process
- addresses issues raised in the 2007 SWRB review of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003

* Competency and recertification assessments by ANZASW and competence assessment by Te Kaiawhina Ahumahi.

- assists in diminishing the confusion for social workers of the roles of the SWRB and ANZASW
- supports the SWRB's long-term goal of mandatory registration.

"We are delighted to be offering this new competence assessment process, which provides greater benefit to the social work profession, and in recessionary times we need to be addressing every cost saving that we can provide for our social workers and their employers," says Sean McKinley, SWRB Registrar and Chief Executive.

The new competence assessment process offered by SWRB will compliment that of the other recognised competence assessment providers* and will give social workers additional affordable options when choosing the process that best suits their needs.

NEWS FLASH

The Minister for Social Development and Employment has asked the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to work with the Social Workers Registration Board to find ways to reduce the cost and complexity of becoming a registered social worker. The purpose of this work is to encourage more social workers to become registered. The consultation document will be available on our website www.swrb.org.nz by mid August.

News Inside:

APC RENEWAL

You should have your green APC ID card and certificate by 1 July. *More inside...*

SOI 2009-2010

Focus on increasing registrations and enhancing the professionalism of social workers. *More inside...*

STUDY AWARDS 2010

Applications are invited. *More inside...*

WEBSITE MAKEOVER

www.swrb.org.nz looks better and is more user-friendly. *More inside...*

CALL FOR PAPERS

"Professional Supervision: Common threads, different patterns", Auckland, 30 April to 1 May 2010. *More inside...*

STRENGTHS-BASED PRACTICE WORKSHOP

Two-day workshop presented by Michael Ungar, Auckland, 12-13 October 2009. *More inside...*



Social Workers
Registration Board
Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

REMINDER:

ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

It's that time of year again. The current blue Annual Practising Certificates (APC) expired on 1 July 2009 at which time you should have the new green APC ID card and certificate.

All Registered Social Workers are required to maintain a current APC, which is valid from 1 July to 30 June the following year.

Your APC renewal form should have been sent to you. Please take the time to check all contact details, including phone and email, and update your renewal form if any details have changed.

If you have not received your APC renewal form, please contact us immediately. Please take care to complete your application fully. If your APC application form is not completed or relevant information is missing, we may return your application to you. This may result in a delay in issuing your APC in time for 1 July 2009.

PLEASE NOTE: As per section 27(1) of the Social Workers Registration Act you are deemed to hold an APC from the time we receive your form and payment even if there is a delay in physically sending you the certificate and ID card. Registered Social Workers practising without a current APC will be referred to the SWRB complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal.

STATEMENT OF INTENT 2009–2010: KEY POINTS

Enhancing the professionalism of social workers and increasing registrations are the SWRB's focus areas for the coming year, as outlined in the Statement of Intent for 2009–2010.

The purpose of the Statement of Intent is to promote the public accountability of the SWRB. It reflects the Board's outcome-based strategic planning and how the Board contributes to the social development sector's broader strategies.

The Board's key outcome areas are:

1. Managing the registration of social workers
2. Considering complaints against registered social workers
3. Enhancing the professionalism of social workers
4. Promoting the benefits of registration.

Since October 2004, when registration was made available to social workers in New Zealand, over 2,000 social workers have voluntarily become registered. In that time, the Board's strategic focus has been on ensuring that registration processes were in place and on assessing and processing applicants for registration.

Now, with these operational activities firmly established, (outcomes 1 and 2 above) the

Board's focus has moved to concentrate on increasing registrations and on enhancing the professionalism of social workers (outcomes 3 and 4 above).

To achieve this, the Board's operating intentions over the next three years will include the following priority areas:

- working to increase the number of Registered Social Workers in the DHB and NGO sectors, via targeted promotion and developing relationships/agreements with employers
- implementing alternative and affordable competence assessment options
- looking at reducing the costs of registration in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development
- continuing to streamline the current registration processes
- over time, developing additional registration scopes for Associate and Assistant Social Workers to increase coverage and uptake.

For a full copy of the Statement of Intent; and some interesting facts, figures and trends around registration, please visit our new-look website: www.swrb.org.nz

The Statement of Intent reflects the Board's outcome-based strategic planning and how the Board contributes to the social development sector's broader strategies.

APC RENEWAL TIME IS THE BEST TIME TO ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT INFORMATION.

The Social Workers Registration Act requires all Registered Social Workers who are on the Register to ensure that we have your current postal, residential and (if applicable) work address. We ask that if you change address, please promptly advise the SWRB Registrar.

The Board wants to ensure that all social workers are given an opportunity to remain on the Register if they choose to be. In our next newsletter and in subsequent newsletters, we will publish a list of the names of social workers whose mail has been returned, with a request that if you know the social worker's whereabouts, to either let us know, or ask the social worker to get in touch with us.

NGO SOCIAL WORK STUDY AWARDS – 2010

Applications for an NGO social work study award commencing in 2010 are invited from social workers employed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO).

- To be eligible NGOs are likely to be community organisations that have become incorporated societies, or that have a charitable status. Organisations will need to demonstrate eligibility.
- Social work students will need to be paid employees of NGO's and enrolled in or intending to enrol in a social work course that is recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB).

The application round for these study awards opens on Monday 29 June 2009 and closes on Friday 16 October 2009 - a minimum of 65 new study awards will be available for the 2010 academic year. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than 4 December 2009.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

Each study award has a maximum possible value of \$32,750:

- Students can receive help with their course fees of up to \$3,500 per year and up to \$10,500 in total over the duration of the award.
- Employers can receive a contribution to help support their student in study of up to \$4,500 per year and up to \$13,500 over the duration of the award. This can be used to help with a range of study-related expenses, including backfilling the employee's position while they are studying.
- Employers can also receive a contribution to help with the cost of backfilling their employee while they are on their final three month external placement of up to \$8,750.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application is a joint process between an NGO employee and their employer. There is a standard application form to complete and it is recommended that employees and their employers complete the application together. Complete and well-presented information is likely to assist in the selection process.

SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be considered on a national basis on their individual merits. Selection will be based on the completed standard application form and any supporting documentation provided. Through the selection criteria weighting will be given to:

- organisations with government contracts for services which are delivering early intervention or preventative social work services to vulnerable children and families;
- employees who have previously studied and / or who are currently studying at a tertiary level;
- employees who are employed on a full time basis (ideally 20 hours or more per week).

PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

A series of pre-application workshops will be held between June and October 2009.

These workshops will explain more fully the information available contained in the Applicant's Booklet, and on our website. These workshops also provide an opportunity to have any questions answered. The timing and locations of these workshops is as below - this information and any changes can also be accessed via our website.

MORE INFORMATION

These awards are administered by Family and Community Services (FACS), a service line of the Ministry of Social Development. More information about these study awards is available on their website – <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/index.html> or by calling their free phone 0508 346 376.

Information booklets and the standard application forms are available:

- From the Family and Community Services website
- From individual Schools of Social Work (i.e. Universities, Polytechnics, Wananga, etc)
- By calling free phone 0508 346 376
- Through attending one of the Pre-application Workshops.

MAKEOVER

The SWRB website www.swrb.org.nz has had a facelift. The site not only looks better, but is also more user-friendly.

The new-look site offers smoother navigation, so you can find things more easily. The site not only holds the current listing of all Registered Social Workers, but downloadable versions of our publications, such as the Code of Conduct, the Statement of Intent 2009-2010, etc. It's also the place to find the latest links to sector news and updates.

The site also has clear signposts for new users such as the public, and for those social workers looking to register.

Please visit the site and let us know what you think. We welcome your feedback.

ADVANCE NOTICE AND FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS FOR:

“PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION: COMMON
THREADS, DIFFERENT PATTERNS”
SUPERVISION CONFERENCE AT CENTRA
HOTEL, MANGERE, AUCKLAND
30 APRIL TO 1 MAY 2010

Pre-conference workshops on 29 April 2010

This conference builds on the 2004
Supervision Conference. Professional
supervision is an essential mechanism for
professional development and maintenance
of well-being of the practitioner, whilst
improving services to consumers. This
conference will explore themes and issues
arising from a collaborative body of
knowledge and skills, policy, management,
education training and research.

PRE CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION WORKSHOPS (29 APRIL 2010)

Conference keynotes will all present day-
long workshops on topics to be confirmed.

Keynote Presenters: Tony Morrison (UK),
Moana Eruera (NZ), Liz Beddoe (NZ),
Meg Bond & Stevie Holland (UK) TBC.

Proposals are sought for presentations of
either 30 minute papers or 45 / 90 minute
workshop presentations.

RESEARCH AND THEORETICAL PAPERS

The proposal needs to be linked to one of
the supervision conference sub themes, but
general themes will also be considered.

Proposals are sought for presentations of
either 30 minute papers or 45 / 90 minute
workshop presentations.

If interested in presenting, please email
Barbara Burt barbara.a.burt@gmail.com
for a copy of the abstract submission form
or download it from www.swrb.org.nz.
Email proposals before 1 September 2009.

STRENGTHS-BASED PRACTICE WITH AT-RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: INTERVENTIONS TO NURTURE HIDDEN RESILIENCE ACROSS CULTURES AND CONTEXTS

Presented by Michael Ungar, Ph.D. AAMFT
Clinical Supervisor Registered Social Worker

A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP FOR PROFESSIONALS

12–13 October 2009

At Sorrento in the Park, One Tree Hill Domain,
Royal Oak, Auckland

Cost \$350, early bird registration \$300 if
registering before 31 July

This workshop will count toward the Social
Workers Registration Board's continuing
professional development requirements.

Michael Ungar, Ph.D. is both a Social Worker
and Marriage and Family Therapist with
experience working directly with youth and
families in child welfare, mental health,
educational and correctional settings. He
is now a University Research Professor
and Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie
University in Halifax, Canada. He has
conducted workshops internationally on
resilience-related themes relevant to 'at-risk'
youth and families and has published over
60 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and
books on the topic.

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop challenges professionals
working with children, youth and families
labelled dangerous, deviant, delinquent and
disordered to better understand 'problem'
behaviours. Based on research with high-
risk young people around the world, a
culturally sensitive model of intervention will
be presented that nurtures young people's
'hidden resilience'. While we commonly think
of resilience as an individual's capacity to
beat the odds and overcome great adversity,
this workshop focuses on how mental health

professionals and human service providers can
support change and increase the odds to make
resilience more likely to occur.

An integrative strengths-based model of
practice will be discussed and its application
in child welfare, mental health, education
and correctional settings explored. Using
interactive exercises, clinical transcripts and
video recordings of work with children and
families, Michael will show how this model
of practice helps professionals discover the
pathways to resilience people use to survive
and thrive.

This culturally sensitive approach avoids
the 'resistance' commonly found when
those intervening label and stigmatise those
they are trying to help. This workshop both
explores this model of intervention and gives
participants an opportunity to discuss the
most challenging children, youth and families
with whom they work.

**Go to www.swrb.org.nz to download a
flyer with further information about
Michael Ungar and the workshop, and for a
registration form.**

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