

Onboard

Newsletter of the Social Workers Registration Board

ANNUAL DHB SOCIAL WORK LEADERS COUNCIL MEETING:

“The Annual DHB Social Work Council Meeting is an opportunity where social work leaders meet and discuss current issues in health and social work leadership. Social workers depart from this meeting informed about current issues, inspired with a vision for health social work in NZ, and empowered to lead their own DHB social work team towards this national vision.”

Social Work Leaders from all 21 District Health Boards in New Zealand met in Dunedin on 17 & 18 April 2008 for their eighth annual Council meeting.

Marianne Pike RSW*, (Taranaki DHB) was nominated as National DHB Social Work Council Chairperson for 2008/09, and the three regional chairpersons are:

- Kelly Workman, Waikato DHB – Upper North Island
- Bruce Green RSW, Hawkes Bay DHB – Lower North Island
- Susan Murray RSW, Nelson/Marlborough DHB – South Island

In her annual report Marianne highlighted that formal links were established with the following stakeholder groups; ANZASW, ANZASWE, SWRB and DHBNZ: Allied Health Workforce Strategy Group. It was a busy

year developing professional relationships with key stakeholders that support and confirm the Social Work Leaders Council is officially recognised and valued.

“There is a lot happening for our profession – registration of social workers in health contributes to a sense of professionalism, but equally sets high standards for best

“There is a lot happening for our profession”

practice and competence. The challenge is to take the Council to the level that it supports DHB Social Workers to meet challenges in the current health environment”

Margaret Sanders RSW gave feedback on the developments in DHBNZ Allied Health Workforce Group, as well as the three current projects that will influence practice in the future:

- Allied Health Leadership & Network
- Innovations in Primary Health
- Workforce Readiness

David McNabb RSW presented the current: “Draft: Practice Framework for Social Workers in District Health Board Provider Services”. Further work will proceed during 2008, and the purpose is to develop the Practice Framework for Social Work in Health by identifying and describing principles and best practice for Health Social Work “It will provide a clear understanding of what underpins social work in health – what do we do and how do we do it?”

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* Registered Social Worker

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FROM THE BOARD:

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The second day was highlighted by the attendance and presentations by:

- SWRB – Sean McKinley and Shannon Pakura RSW
- ANZASW – Dominic Chilvers
- ANZASWE – Dr Lynne Briggs RSW, University of Otago,
- Prof Amanda Barusch, University Of Otago
- Liz Beddoe RSW, Auckland University
- Geoff Pearman, Tertiary Education Commission.

The last session of the Council meeting focused on how technology could be utilized to support networking, meetings, project group work and continued professional education in the DHB environment. The Telepaediatric Video Conferencing Service provided training on the utilization of video conferencing facilities in DHB's in NZ. This could provide wonderful opportunities for competency training and continued provisional development.

Marianne Pike

CHAIRPERSON:

DHB Social Work Leaders Council 2008/09



SW leaders enjoying a group dinner at conference

The Board is continuing to progress the implementation of a number of initiatives in support of social worker registration as a result of the Board's review of the Social Work Registration Act and the ongoing work of the SWRB.

As a result of the Board's consultation with tertiary educators providing programmes on the SWRB schedule of recognised social work qualifications, a policy is now in place that allows new graduates to be provisionally registered. The policy allows students, who graduate after 1/7/08 from a SWRB recognised social work qualification programme, be deemed to have graduate competence and therefore be eligible to apply for registration as long as the programme has undergone a full SWRB recognition process.

This recommendation from the Board's Education and Practise Standards Committee has now been approved for the SWRB.

This competence is valid for a period of two years from the date of completing the recognised qualification and following this, students are required to complete a standard competence assessment in order to progress to full registration.

The policy document can be viewed for comment at www.swrb.co.nz

WE FAREWELL THE OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

We farewell Ian Calder, Buster Curson and Sonya Hunt, who finish their tenure as members of the SWRB Board.

As leading professionals the SWRB has benefited from their knowledge and expertise. With many demands on our time and pressures of busy lives we thank you for the generous time you have given this Board and contributions to the profession and wider community.



Ian Calder and Sonya Hunt

NEW MEMBERS TO THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD AND A NEW MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

The Minister for Social Development and Employment is soon to announce the incoming Board members and a new Ministerial appointment to the SWRB Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal. We will provide a brief introduction to the new members in our next edition of OnBoard

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE/REGISTRAR:

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATES

AS MORE SOCIAL WORKERS in New Zealand attain statutory registration the SWRB has noted a decrease in the number asking questions about how they register and an increase in questions regarding what their statutory obligations are now that they are registered.

In response to these questions the SWRB provides you with the following booklets; Criteria for Annual Practising Certificates, Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct guidelines. These publications outline what is required of social workers to maintain their registered status. These are sent out to all registered social workers as they receive their registration certificate.

As we approach the renewal of Annual Practising Certificates (APC) for those already registered and the issue of the first APC notice for newly registered social workers, we thought it appropriate to focus on Certificates of Registration and APCs as part of this edition of Onboard.

WHAT IS A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION?

The SWR Act 2003 states that promptly after the Board has decided that a person should be registered based on a successful application; the Registrar must register him or her, and give him or her written notice stating that he or she has been registered. This written notice comes in the form of a Certificate of Registration that is signed and dated by the Registrar and states all the information about the social worker that is required for a certificate of registration such as if a person is fully, provisionally or temporarily registered and why.



WHAT IS AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)?

Section 25 of the SWR Act 2003 clearly states that no registered social worker may be employed or engaged as a social worker unless he or she holds a current practising certificate. An APC is required by registered social workers if they intend to practise as a social worker. An APC identifies that the registered social worker is safe to practise as they have been assessed as competent to practise, are considered competent to work with Maori and competent to work with different ethnic and cultural groups, deemed to be a fit and proper person to undertake social work, have (or are working towards completing) a social work qualification and have completed (or are working towards completing) enough practical experience hours. A registered social worker may not practice social work without a valid APC.

How Do I Maintain My Fitness to Practice So That I can Obtain An APC?

The SWRB has developed Annual Practising Certificate Criteria that can be accessed via the SWRB website www.swrb.org.nz or can be requested in hard copy from the office.

How Will The SWRB Know That I Have Maintained My Fitness To Hold An APC?

The Board maintains a database of information regarding registered social workers competence assessments, qualifications and practical experience hours. Registered social workers are also required to update this information as required or, for example, when competence certificates are due for re-certification. The SWRB will also randomly audit a number of registered social workers and ask them to provide documentation, including the CPD log, to prove that they are maintaining their fitness to practice.

REMINDER

PRACTISING CERTIFICATE APPLICATION FORMS 2008/2009

Practising Certificate Application forms for 2008/2009 were mailed on 30 May 2008.

Completed forms along with payment are required to be returned to the SWRB office before 1 July 2008 so you can be issued with a current and valid Annual Practising Certificate.

If for any reason you will not be practising social work for this APC year you can maintain your registered status by completing the Practising Certificate Application form 'Not Practising This APC Year' and return this to the SWRB office whereby your file can be updated.

Further information on APC criteria is at www.swrb.org.nz

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 nat_office@anzasw.org.nz

TE ARA AROMATAWAI, PO Box 2637,
WELLINGTON
Phone 0800 558 558 or
email louisee@tkaito.co.nz

CONFERENCES

ANZASW CONFERENCE 2009 - WELLINGTON

ANZASW is in the process of making preparations for the 2009 ANZASW Conference in Wellington and details will be available in the near future.

IFSW WORLD CONFERENCE 2008

Salvador - Bahia, BRAZIL

16 - 19 AUGUST 2008

<http://www.salvadorconvention.co.br/>

AASW BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

STRENGTH IN UNITY CONFERENCE 2008 9-12 NOVEMBER 2008,

LUNA PARK, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

To find out more about registering or speaking at this event, please visit: www.iceaustralia.com/strengthinunity2008 AASW extended deadline for Abstract Submission.pdf (0.10MB)

INVOLVE 08: RELATE"

WELLINGTON - 2-4 JULY 2008

If you work with or for young people, you need to be at Involve 08. A youth development conference about quality relationships and young people.

The full draft programme is now available, listing the workshop, papers and presentations that will be on during Involve 08: Relate. www.involve.org.nz

New Zealand Aotearoa Adolescent Health and Development (NZAHD)

www.nzaahd.org.nz, DDI (04) 894 2141

PO Box 27326 Wellington 6141

3RD ANNUAL HE MANA TO IA TAMARIKI / EVERY CHILD COUNTS CONFERENCE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

10 & 11 SEPTEMBER 2008, WELLINGTON

www.everychildcounts.org.nz

Theme: "For our children: a better today, a better tomorrow. What's it going to take"

Psycho/Oncology New Zealand Conference 17 & 18 November 2008, Palmerston North Convention Centre

Theme: "Winds of Change"; Additional workshops on Sunday afternoon, 16th November. For more information contact Sue Peck, SP Conference Management, suepeck@xtra.co.nz

OTHER EVENTS

PARENT TO PARENT TRAINING

Course dates now available for 2008 - some courses subject to funding, others have additional dates yet to be set.

Web: <http://www.parent2parent.org.nz/>

email: wellington@parent2parent.org.nz

NGO SOCIAL WORK STUDY AWARDS – 2009 APPLICATION ROUND

Applications for the 2009 NGO Social Work Study Awards

opens on 20 June 2008

closes on 26 September 2008.

The Social Work Study Awards are for employees of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) who have previously studied, or are currently studying, for a social work qualification that meets the educational requirements for Social Worker Registration. These awards are administered by Family and Community Services, a service line of the Ministry of Social Development. Applications can be made by any NGO social worker who is enrolled in or intending to enrol in a course that is recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB).

These include

- Level 7 (bachelor) qualifications in social work
- Level 8 (post-graduate) social work qualifications
- Recognised Level 6 (diploma) social work qualifications where the applicant commenced studying prior to 1 January 2006.

A list of recognised courses is available at: www.swrb.org.nz

In the 2009 round, there will be a minimum of 65 new study awards available. Selection will require candidates to meet minimum criteria and will be based on the written application form provided. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than 5 December 2008. Each study award has a maximum possible value of \$32,750. For further information www.familyservices.govt.nz

PROMOTIONS CAMPAIGN 2008

The SWRB is running a nation wide promotional campaign to support both stakeholder and public awareness of social worker registration. As this project gets under way the Social Workers Registration Board would like to take the opportunity to meet with your organisation to work closely with you and create partnership opportunities to communicate registration to the sector as a whole. Smaller organisations may wish to partner with others within the community to have a combined presentation.

For further information contact the SWRB at info@swrb.org.nz or 04 931 2650



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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 Social Workers
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Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro