

Onboard

Newsletter of the Social Workers Registration Board

THE ROAD TO REGISTRATION PASSES THE 1000 MILESTONE

In line with expected targets more than 1000 Social Workers have now registered with the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB).

THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE was reached at the Board's meeting in June 2006. SWRB Chief Executive and Registrar Sean McKinley says the applications process is on track to reach 1500 registrations early in 2007. "From this point on we are consolidating the progress we have made by ensuring the framework for registered Social Workers is working in the best interests of everyone concerned, including the New Zealand public."

Two of the Social Workers who carried the number of registrations across the 1000 mark were Rawinia Hape and Janine Holmes.

Janine's introduction to registration actually took place when she was working in the United Kingdom at the time that compulsory registration was introduced. Since her return to New Zealand, Janine has been working for the Christchurch Methodist Mission's community social work service, Childwise, working with children and families. This includes courses such as Wise-Up: Walk Tall Tamariki, teaching young people skills for everyday life.

Janine, a Canterbury University graduate who has worked mostly at government agencies, is enjoying the not-for-profit sector.

"There is less case management and different pressures.

There is still intervention work with the family but it involves more contact on a regular basis."



Her registration with the SWRB has been supported by her employers, the Methodist Mission. "There's an integral professionalism attached to registration. It's associated with professional development and career enhancement and I think it also promotes a Social Worker's professional identity," says Janine.

"I feel an added mana and prestige for every Social Worker who gains registration."

Rawinia Hape

Rawinia Hape has worked in social services for more than 30 years and as a Social Worker with the Hawkes Bay District Health Board since 1996. "My values have always involved working with people in the community. My family always worked in social work or teaching – my Mum still works in the voluntary sector now," she says.

Before starting in her current role with the Kaupapa Maori Mental Health Service, Te Puawai O Te Whanau Oranga Hinengaro Hauora, Rawinia sought guidance from her kuia. "It seemed like the most obvious thing to do. They really helped me to make some choices, which was great."

And the choice to become a registered Social Worker has been great too, "a real feather in my cap, I feel an added mana and prestige for every Social Worker who gains registration," says Rawinia.

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE / REGISTRAR:

BUILDING PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY



Welcome to the Summer edition of *Onboard*, the newsletter of the Social Workers Registration Board.

AS 2006 draws to a close it is a good time to consider the tangible signs of progress being made in raising and reinforcing the professional identity of Social Workers.

GROWING COMMITMENT

A growing commitment to supporting the development of the profession of social work was a key theme at the 18th World Conference of Social Work held in Munich earlier this year.

This event, convened by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), was well attended by representatives from New Zealand, including myself, some members of the Board, social work experts and educators. It coincided with the IFSW's 50 Year Jubilee and a celebration of its 1956 vision to raise the professional level of social work.

As subsequently noted by Board member Buster Curson, the conference provided a "feasting ground" of useful information and networks.

Topics of particular interest at the IFSW conference included the long-term trend towards regulation of social work, current issues for social work education around the world and the need for constructive collaboration to promote the profession.

Having access to colleagues who operate in organisations similar to the SWRB demonstrated to me that there is a genuine willingness to build communication and knowledge sharing between us. This bodes well for future engagement and dialogue.

THE FIRST TIME

This was, in fact, the first time that such a gathering of people from regulatory boards was included on the conference agenda and the new IFSW President, David Jones, commented on this as a "historic moment" in the history of the social work profession.

The types of initiative that could begin to emerge from discussions prompted by the conference include developing shared resources and best practice ideas for regulators to use as part of the services they provide to registered Social Workers.

There would also be the potential to ensure that different countries are better equipped to understand the differences and similarities between their respective registration practices.

There is no doubt about the value of keeping a watching brief on international developments and that active participation in groupings like IFSW does much to sustain a highly credible reputation for New Zealand in the international social work community.

The next World Conference will be held in 2008 in Brazil. More information about the IFSW can be found on the internet at www.ifsw.org

This bodes well for future engagement and dialogue.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

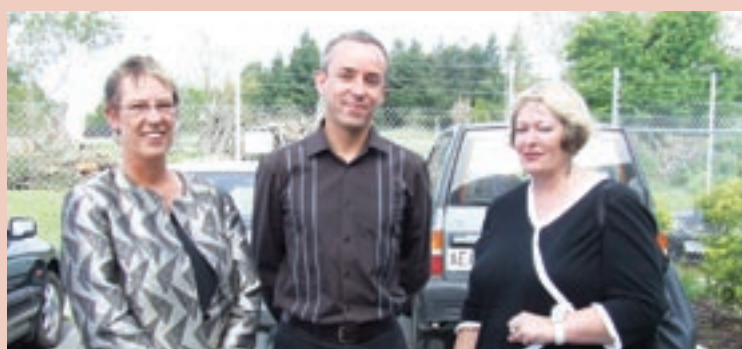
Closer to home, the year is ending with an international conference in Wellington that celebrates New Zealand's introduction of Family Group Conferences, a world-leading form of decision-making in child welfare and youth justice legislation.

This event – Coming Home, Te Hokinga Mai (26-29 November) – is an outstanding example of New Zealand's expertise in social work in action. With the interest it is creating, and its platform for thought leadership, it deserves to be seen as a landmark in the elevation of the profession's profile. What better way to set a forward-looking path for 2007!

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sean McKinley'.

Sean McKinley
Chief Executive and Registrar
Social Workers Registration Board



ON 13 OCTOBER 2006 the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) invited guests to a special ceremony on the opening of their new National Office in Christchurch. The Association is one of two providers with responsibility for conducting competence assessments required for registration by the Social Workers Registration Board (see box on opposite page).

Pictured (left to right): Government Minister, the Hon. Ruth Dyson; Sean McKinley, Chief Executive and Registrar, Social Workers Registration Board; and Rose Henderson, ANZASW President.

FROM THE BOARD:

WORKING OUTWARDS FROM THE FRAMEWORK

THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD (SWRB) enters a new phase next year as it continues to work outwards from the robust framework for registration that has been put in place since 2004.

As has been previously stated, the major task of ensuring that the SWRB was able to receive, assess and approve applications for registration was only a beginning.

The governance structure of the SWRB has provided a solid foundation to address that task, with its mix of six registered Social Workers and four other, non-registered Board members.

All SWRB members have a wealth of professional experience, with those from the social work profession being among the first people in New Zealand to meet the requirements for, and attain, registration.

However, as must happen new appointments will be made to the SWRB from time to time. The first change in Board membership since its establishment has been to farewell Liz Beddoe and Shannon Pakura.

Both Liz and Shannon made valued contributions to the development and strategic direction of the inaugural Board. Beyond the SWRB they also exemplify a breadth and depth of commitment to the profession in all its facets.

Heading into 2007 it is heartening to consider the steady flow in the number of applications, the increased capability at our national office, and the commitment that registered Social Workers are making to the profession. Together with new Board members we look forward to a challenging year ahead, progressing the objectives of the SW Act.

Meri Kirihimete me nga mihi mo te tau hou ki a koutou katoa.

Regards,



Robyn Corrigan
Chairperson, SWRB



Inaugural SWRB members Liz Beddoe and Shannon Pakura, at their last Board meeting in June 2006. Liz served as a non-registered member of the SWRB and has chosen to stand down to concentrate on her position as the Head of the Social Work and Human Services programme in the University of Auckland's Faculty of Education. Under the terms of the SW Act, Shannon's membership of the Board had to end after the Child, Youth and Family Service merged with the Ministry of Social Development, given that employees of the Ministry cannot also act as members of the Board.

WHAT'S NEW:

PUBLICATIONS. In October 2006 two important new SWRB publications were completed and distributed: the **Code of Conduct Guidelines**, and **Criteria for Annual Practising Certificates (APC)**.

The **Guidelines booklet** offers complementary information to support the implementation of the **Code of Conduct** first issued by the SWRB in May 2005, in accordance with section 105 of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003. This supplementary booklet is available to assist Social Workers and their employers to understand how the **Code of Conduct** may be applied and interpreted in practice. The SWRB welcomes comment on the **Guidelines**.

As part of their registration all registered Social Workers hold an **APC**, renewed each year at a set fee. The **APC** demonstrates that the competence of each individual is being maintained – primarily through continuing professional development (CPD). The **Criteria booklet** issued by the SWRB builds on the principle that registered Social Workers participate in a minimum of 150 hours of CPD in any three year period. CPD records are subject to audit by the SWRB.

Copies of these latest booklets and the SWRB's 2006-2007 **Statement of Intent** are available online at www.swrb.org.nz

BOARD MEETINGS.

The next Board meetings are scheduled for 7-8 December 2006 and 15-16 February 2007.

THE ROAD TO REGISTRATION

The registration process depends on a smooth flow of information. 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

If you have applied to register and have yet to meet the requirements for registration, or are unsure of the status of your application, you could also contact us by email or phone, as above.

COMPETENCE ASSESSMENTS

All registration applications require provision of completed documentation, including a certified 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

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

IFCO XV BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

11-16 FEBRUARY 2007
HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

For more information, visit
www.ifconz07.org.nz

CHILDREN'S DAY

4 March 2007
New Zealand

For more information, visit
www.childrensday.org.nz

INAUGURAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

22-23 March 2007
Auckland, New Zealand

For more information, contact
rharvey@adhb.govt.nz

SOCIAL POLICY, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CONFERENCE

3-5 April 2007
Wellington, New Zealand

For more information, visit
www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference

INDIGENOUS VOICES IN SOCIAL WORK

4-7 June 2007
Hawaii, USA

For more information, visit
www.vrchawaii.org/IVSW

19th ASIA PACIFIC SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

27-29 August 2007
Penang, Malaysia

For more information, visit
www.usm.my/apaswe

TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY FUTURE ISSUES

As required by the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, the SWRB will soon be taking stock of its operations to date and identifying future issues.

Sean McKinley, SWRB Chief Executive and Registrar says it is a timely phase now to consider the extent to which the Act, and the system of voluntary registration it provides for, are achieving the purposes of the legislation.

"We are committed to involving the profession and wider stakeholders in reviewing those areas we might need to change, clarify and reinforce in the future. We will do this alongside an ongoing appraisal of the most effective and efficient ways for the SWRB to operate," says Sean.

"The expression 'raising the bar' continues to be at the core of what the SWRB was established to achieve, as documented each year in our Annual Report and Statement of Intent."

"Our success is really all about ensuring that the Act and the Board's registration and disciplinary functions and activities have the combined benefit of enhancing professionalism and underpinning public confidence in the profession."

A review process will be commencing from December 2006, to be coordinated by the secretariat of the Board. This will be informed by operational information, associated research, and feedback from within relevant sectors with an interest in the successful operation of the SWRB.

As a part of the review process the views of Social Workers, employers, educators and interested parties will be sought via the SWRB website and by direct communication, to ensure that the opportunity for identifying relevant issues is extended to as many people as possible.

The expression 'raising the bar' continues to be at the core of what the SWRB was established to achieve.

The scope of the review is likely to cover comparisons with similar agencies involved in professional registration to assist the development of a benchmarking or best practice approach. A report from the review may also consider whether any amendments to the Act are necessary or desirable, as well as examining the sustainability of various funding models.

NEW TRIBUNAL MEMBER

A recent Ministerial appointee to the Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal has brought the Tribunal's membership to a total of nine. The new member is Darryn Russell. Darryn is Maori Affairs Advisor at the University of Otago, a serving member of the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand and is also a director of organisations such as Araiteuru Whare Hauroa (a Maori health provider in Dunedin City) and the J R McKenzie Trust.

Past issues of Onboard are available on our website, see site address below. Please send feedback about this newsletter or ideas for future topics to onboard@swrb.org.nz

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