

SW profession snapshot 2014

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Social policy background

- Maori society: whanau, hapu, iwi, - kin based responsibilities for welfare
- British migration: Poor Laws – moral judgement on poverty, ‘deserving poor’
- 1840 Treaty of Waitangi: many Maori leaders and British Crown sign Treaty
- British migrants increase, pressure on land, 1860s Land Wars
- British based law and culture become dominant
- Key social legislation: 1893 women vote, 1938 social security act

Social work and the State

- Background of philanthropy and minimal state provision
- 1870s Charity Organisation precursor to SW
- 1925 Child Welfare Act – child welfare officers; also medical SWs, probation officers, psychiatric SWs, prison welfare officers, Maori welfare officers.
- Voluntary sector organisations develop.
- 1971 Department of Social Welfare Act – social work category and status in the public service.
- 1986 Puao-te-ata-tu report chaired by John Rangihau, SW graduate, evidencing institutional, cultural and personal racism in Department of Social Welfare. Argue for Maori self-determination.
- 1989 Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, influenced by Puao-te-ata-tu, Family Group Conferences
- 1996 CYFS funded 12 pilot SW in schools projects.

Social work education

- 1949 Social work diploma at Victoria University – first SW education, English curriculum.
- 1974 NZ SW Training Council formed – to set minimum standards for accredited SW programmes – 17% of SWs only with SW qualification.
- 1975 University of Auckland MA SW programme, to 1980
- 1976 Massey University BSW programme, then University of Canterbury.
- 1986 NZ Council for Education and Training in the Social Services (NZCETSS), composed of equal numbers of Maori and non-Maori members.
- 1990s Rapid expansion of Polytechnic certificate and diploma in SW programmes.
- 1996 ANZ Association of Social Work Educators established, Gavin Rennie chair. 1997, Association of Schools of SW Education formed.

- Gavin subsequently on executive of the International Association of the Schools of SW, later Mark Henrickson onto executive in 2014. Council for SW Education in ANZ formalised with revised constitution 2014, claims seat on IASSW Board through having all schools members of IASSW.
- Iwi and Wananga SW programmes, Private Training Establishments.

Social work professional body

- 1964 NZ Association of Social Workers established (now called Aotearoa NZ Association of SWs) – Merv Hancock first president – membership linked to agencies.
- Affiliation with International Association of SWs.
- 1976 ANZASW News and Views invites discussion on registration.
- 1982 ANZASW renews focus on social justice, Maori perspectives in SW, feminist voices. IFSW active in human rights policy and action.
- 1986 ANZASW conference at Turangawaewae, Maori decide to have separate leadership, two presidents.
- 1988 Competency programme voted in, small numbers in ANZASW, begins in 1990.
- SW publications from beginning, 1995 Te Komako I – Maori led edition of ANZASW journal
- 1996 ANZASW votes to pursue registration.
- 2000s ANZASW members active on IFSW, Fiona treasurer and awarded medal 2014. Rory Truell becomes secretary general of IFSW 2011. 2012 Global agenda of the three international bodies: IFSW, IASSW, International Council of Social Welfare.
- 2001 Maori model of competency assessment launched, using the Niho Taniwha approach.
- 2001 Tu Mau I – Pacific led edition of ANZASW journal.
- 2004 Course Approval Board established by ANZASW, programmes approved via a visit: University of Otago, Unitec, University of Auckland.
- 2009 Tangata Whenua SWs Association formed.
- Public Service Association – union for many SWs, Social Work Action Network formed.

Social work registration

- 2003 Social Workers Registration Act – Social Workers Registration Board set up to: protect public, register SWs, promote profession, recognise SW programmes
- Robyn Corrigan first chair of the SW Registration Board. First SWs registered in 2004. Policy developed: competency standards, competency assessment process of ANZASW approved, code of conduct and complaints process.
- SWRB SW programme recognition standards, 2005 – 3 year degree minimum, 2012 – 4 year degree minimum.
- 2011 Review of SWR Act, yes to mandatory registration. But government stays with voluntary registration policy.

Social work Snapshot

- Number of registered social workers:
4,789
- Fields of practice for registered social workers:
Ministry of Social Development 28%, District Health Boards 26%, NGOs 22%, Education 4%
- ANZASW members:
3,439
- Curriculum for social work programmes:
See Graduate Profile SWRB: SW practice and theory, fieldwork, Maori and Treaty, social sciences, critical thinking and reflection, research
- Range of social work programme providers:
Universities, polytechnics/technical institutes, Wananga, Private training establishments
- Range of social work organisations:
ANZASW, SWRB, CSWEANZ, TWSWA, PSA. Also NZ Council of Social Services and NZ Council of Christian Social Services for NGOs.

SW profession themes:

- Dealing with increasing poverty and inequality in society
- Workload in CYF reviewed and found to be in overload
- SWRB influence vs other SW groups
- Registration developments: non mandatory now but push by profession for mandatory
- ANZASW: membership broadening to include non-qualified social service workers
- SW political voice limited, status and public standing limited, poor understanding of role beyond CYF
- SW workforce limited planning to reflect society, government begun consultation
- Increasing union involvement but unions under threat

SW education themes:

- 4 year programme standardisation and inequitable effect on poorer students
- Narrowing of student candidates: loans limited to under 45 years and for 4 years only
- Academic workforce, limited breadth and depth
- Government cut to funding, student numbers falling
- Research output and publications need boosting
- Placement opportunities and quality concerns
- Unitec with strong community development emphasis, Wananga with strong bicultural emphasis

International context:

- Active international SW community with NZ engagement at executive and general levels - IFSW, IASSW, ICSW, indigenous SW

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