Australian Association of Social Workers

Promoting professional excellence and social justice
The Association

• The AASW is a member of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

• The AASW has over 8,000 members.

• There are nine branches around Australia, as well as a community of committees and practice groups further supporting the work of the Association.

• The AASW is an incorporated company guided by a constitution and nationally governed by a Board of Directors, elected from and by the membership.

• Our members work in a diverse range of settings.
**Our Mission**

The AASW is responsible for promoting and regulating the social work profession in Australia. The AASW supports social workers by ensuring a vibrant, ethically based profession established on standards of practice that reflect a strong knowledge, skill, values and research base. Membership offers social workers the opportunity to work collectively to contribute to Australian society, its communities and institutions, in a way that is dedicated to improving social well-being. Social workers strive for social justice for all peoples living in Australian communities; the AASW supports social workers to achieve this mission.
AASW objectives

• Advocate for the pursuit of social justice and changes to social structures and policies in order to promote social inclusion and redress social disadvantage.

• Enhance the public and professional recognition and identity of social workers.

• Promote and facilitate members’ professional and career development and life-long learning.

• Represent and advocate for the interests of members as a group.

• Promote and regulate the profession of social work.

• Establish, monitor and improve practice and ethical standards.

• Contribute to the development of social work knowledge and research.

• Develop and maintain education standards for social workers and accredit university programs.
What does the AASW do for the social work profession

• **Advocacy and representation** by providing a voice for the profession and actively engaging in a range of policy issues through the website, policy and position statements, submissions and the media.

• **Campaign activities** on issues of importance for the profession.

• **Support research** related to social work.

• Enhancing the skill development of social workers and promoting advanced practice through **Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the Australian College of Social Work.**
What does the AASW do for the social work profession

• Accreditation of university programs in social work, and responsibility for the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS).

• The assessment of social workers applying to be Accredited Mental Health Social Workers (AMHSW) and promoting AMHSWs to the primary health care sector and the broader community.

• Upholding ethical standards through the Ethics Consultation Service, Ethics Complaints Management Process, and ethics education and policy.

• Assessment of international social work qualifications.

• Provides a forum for employment and career solutions through the Horizon Career Centre.

www.aasw.asn.au
The AASW is the only body that regulates the education and professional standards of social work.

As your professional body, the AASW:
• Establishes content and standards of social work education
• Sets and monitors the standards of professional practice for social workers
• Speaks for the profession to advance social justice and social inclusion
• Represents the profession to government and other authorities.
Governance

Board of Directors

National President
Professor Karen Healy

National Vice President
Christine Craik

National Vice President
Cindy Smith

Directors
Brenda Clare
Josephine Lee
Anita Phillips
Niel Mauriello
Maria Merle
Brenda Moerd

Company Secretary
Helen Hopper

www.aasw.asn.au
Membership benefits and services

- Continuing Professional Development
- Advocacy and commitment to influencing social change
- Various initiatives, National Committees and practice groups
- Receive the *Australian Social Work journal* and other publications
- Ethics information and support
- Campaign for social worker registration
- Support for research in the area of social work
- Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Member Benefits Program
- Eligibility for Medicare providers number
## Strategic Plan 2014-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals: To achieve our vision we need:</th>
<th>Goal 1</th>
<th>Goal 2</th>
<th>Goal 3</th>
<th>Goal 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To be innovators in knowledge, skills and actions for social workers</td>
<td>To be a strong voice for social justice, relevant and engaged with stakeholders</td>
<td>To provide responsible governance and management of the AASW in partnership with Branches and National Committees</td>
<td>To build a strong sustainable membership and equity base</td>
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### Outcomes:

As each goal is reached, it is expected these outcomes will be achieved. They demonstrate the impact on the profession, the community and the people with whom we work.

- To provide a framework and support for high quality, relevant social work education in tertiary institutions
- To deliver the CPD strategy that ensures the continuing development of contemporary social work practice, knowledge and skills within the AASW membership
- To support the ongoing career development of members.
- To provide independent, articulate, highly visible advocacy on social policy issues
- To develop AASW’s reputation as a provider of choice in relevant, high quality CPD
- To build stronger stakeholder engagement
- To be identified as a responsible self-regulating profession.
- To develop and enhance the governance capability of the Board and the organisation as a whole
- To have a staff group that is engaged, supported and satisfied with their employer
- To build ongoing engagement between Board, National Office, National Committees, Committees of the Board and Branches.
- To continue to build a strong and sustainable financial base for the AASW as a growing and dynamic professional association
- To reach 10k members by 2016 through demonstration of value and reward for membership.
Membership Fees 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Full Amount from July 1, 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full</td>
<td>$670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Graduate</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Retired</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Mental Health Social Worker</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Membership types

- Full fee
- Reduced income (for low income earners)
- New graduates (within three years of graduating from the qualifying degree)
- Fully retired
- Student

Please note that fees are pro rata daily from the date of joining and early bird/loyalty discounts are available depending on the date of joining. Visit the AASW website for qualifying criteria.
Am I eligible for membership?

Membership of the AASW is available to applicants holding either an AASW accredited Social Work qualification from an Australian tertiary institution or qualifications from overseas that have been assessed by the AASW as meeting standards for eligibility for membership. Students enrolled in an AASW accredited bachelor or master of social work degree are eligible to become student members of the Association.
For more information or to apply for membership:

Visit: www.aasw.asn.au  Call: 1800 630 124