



Australian Association of Social Workers

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Definition of Social Work

- The social work profession promotes social change and problem solving in human relationships. It has a unique person-in-context framework informed by theories of human behaviour and social systems. Social workers intervene at the points where people interact with their social environment in their relationships with others.

Eligibility to Practice as a Mental Health Social Worker (EPC)

- Certification by AASW panel of experts that the applicant has –
 - 4 year undergraduate degree in an accredited Bachelor of Social Work course giving eligibility for membership of the AASW
 - Post graduate education and/or training in mental health or a related field
 - Evidence of minimum of 2 years supervised practice in mental health
 - Demonstrated ability to meet the Competency Standards for Mental Health Social Workers
 - testimonial of competency and reference from a senior supervisor of applicant's competency in mental health social work

Mental Health Social Workers

- Share a knowledge and skills base with other allied health professionals who are experienced mental health workers
 - bio-psycho-social assessment
 - diagnostic formulation
 - goal directed treatment planning
 - relapse prevention

Mental Health Social Workers

- Keep their practice current through participating in continuing professional education and are trained in a range of therapies and evidence-based interventions including –
 - Interpersonal psychotherapy
 - Cognitive-behavioural therapy
 - Play therapy (children)
 - Family therapy
 - Group therapy
 - Psycho-Education

Mental Health Social Work

- The person-in-context framework of social work means that assessment and intervention include –
 - Assessment of the connections between mental health problems and the social context
 - Assessment of the experience of mental illness and its impact on individuals and their families
 - Working with individuals, families, groups and other community stakeholders to promote recovery

Mental Health Social Workers

- Are experienced in multidisciplinary team work and have awareness of the knowledge and skills of other health disciplines.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively with other health care providers in shared care arrangements.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively with other sector service providers to co-ordinate case management

Social Work Practice

Social Workers specialize in working with individuals and families where mental health problems exist in connection with social contextual problems such as family distress, substance abuse, disability, traumatic events and grief and loss

Mental Health Social Workers work in the following programs accessible by GPs:

- **Better Outcomes in Mental Health Initiative**
- **Medicare Plus (Chronic & Complex Needs)**
- **Better Access to Mental Health Care**
- **Pregnancy Counselling**

How do GPs find and accredited Mental Health Social Worker

Contact the Queensland Branch of the
AASW –

Phone: 3369 9818

Email: asswqld@assw.asn.au