

 **AASW North Queensland Branch
Ethics Group (BEG)**

 **Update- CODE OF ETHICS
REVIEW**

Well it's been a very busy couple of months for our newly formed BEG. Pauline, Ros, Sandi, Helen and I have been meeting monthly discussing how we, as a new BEG, would like to operate. Our Team embraced the opportunity to conduct Branch Focus Groups as part of the Code of Ethics Review Consultation Strategy. Throughout North Queensland we were able to hold three focus groups.

Thank you so much to the following people- Professor Rosamund Thorpe (BEG), Susan Hunt (NTH QLD Branch President), Dr Susan Gair (JCU) and Sandi Winner (BEG) - for facilitating and recording of the Focus Groups and their outcomes.

A total of 43 people participated in giving feedback on the 1st Draft of the new Code in Nth Queensland. Focus group facilitators reported that the focus groups were successful in that-

- They encouraged participants to discuss the new code, social work values and ethical decision making.
- They allowed Social Workers the opportunity to discuss what is challenging about their roles and how the code can assist them with these challenges and dilemmas. Participants were from a broad range of roles and positions.

- Participates accrued CPE points
- The feedback from participants confirmed that people enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to be part of the consultation strategy and review of the 1st draft. One Social Worker participant mentioned it was a reminder of one of the various ways that "Social Workers Can Make a Difference".

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the participants for giving your time and for enthusiastically discussing the new draft Code. Your feedback has been valuable. A verbal report and three written reports have been forwarded on. National office has been extremely interested and gratefully for this feedback.

There are still many ways that people can give feedback on the Code. Donna McAuliffe, Code of Ethics Review Convenor and National Ethics Group Convenor, writes a letter below which outlines the Review and strategies National have developed to reach out to as many people as possible.

Kind Regards,

Clare Fenner (NQ BEG Convenor) on behalf of the NTH QLD BEG- Sandi Winner, Pauline Lawrence, and Helen Pinkard and Professor Rosamund Thorpe.

For any BEG enquiries please contact Clare Fenner (NTH QLD BEG Convenor) on nqswethics@live.com.au or any of our Branch Ethics Group members.

AASW Ethics Review—our Code

Dear all,

As you are no doubt aware, the Review of our Code of Ethics is now underway and we would love to hear from you.

Many of you will already have information about the Review through your Branch Ethics Groups, the website or the National Bulletin, but as our valued partners in this process, we wanted to formally write to you and provide you with this update and invitation to participate.

Background

The Code of Ethics is arguably our cornerstone document. It articulates the core values and principles of the social work profession and provides a guide to ethical social work practice. To ensure that the Code of Ethics remains relevant to the profession, we are undertaking a comprehensive review of the Code, which was last thoroughly reviewed in 1999.

The National Ethics Think Tank was the first stage of the 12 month review. The purpose of the National Ethics Think Tank was to provide an opportunity for a broad range of social work practitioners and academics, with specialist expertise in ethics, to reflect upon, discuss, debate and review the current Code. The recommendations arising from the Think Tank have formed the basis of the first draft of the new Code of Ethics.

Full background information on the review, including a copy of the Consultation Strategy, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/code-of-ethics-review>

First draft of the new Code of Ethics

A copy of the first draft of a new Code of Ethics can be found at the following link:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/code-of-ethics-review>

Survey

This week we launched an online survey in relation to the review of the Code of Ethics. The survey can also be found at the following link:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/code-of-ethics-review>

Call-in Week

As part of the review of the Code of Ethics, we are holding a "Call-in Week". The purpose of the Call-in Week is to give people a simple and direct opportunity to respond to the first draft of the new Code of Ethics.

WHEN: **Monday 10 May until Friday 14 May**

TIMES: 9.00am – 5.00pm (AEST)

PHONE: 03 9326 2333

EMAIL: ethics@aasw.asn.au

MORE INFO: [Click here](#)

We urge you to circulate this information, and please get involved. This is *our* Code of Ethics, and the current review provides us all with an exciting opportunity to be part of the process of developing a new code of ethics which will guide and inspire for many years to come.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself, as the Code of Ethics Review Convenor, or the ethics staff working on this review anytime. Our contact details are:

Donna McAuliffe (Code of Ethics Review Convenor)

E: d.mcauliffe@griffith.edu.au

T: 07 3382 1070

Sharlene Nipperess (Code of Ethics Review Project Officer)

E: sharlenen@aasw.asn.au

A banner image showing a coastal landscape with green hills, a blue beach, and a clear blue sky. The text "North Queensland Branch" is overlaid in white at the top left.

North Queensland Branch

T: 03 9326 2333

Kym Daly (National Ethics Officer)

E: kymd@asw.asn.au

T: 03 9326 2333

Details regarding the full Code of Ethics Review Committee and Reference Group can also be found at the following link:
<http://www.asw.asn.au/whatwedo/code-of-ethics-review>

We are looking forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Donna McAuliffe
Code of Ethics Review Convenor
National Ethics Group Convenor

Donna McAuliffe (Associate Professor)
BSW PhD
Program Convenor Master of Social Work
Program Convenor Master Mental Health Practice
School of Human Services and Social Work
Griffith University
Logan Campus
University Drive
MEADOWBROOK Q 4131

Ph: +61 7 3382 1070

Fax: +61 7 3382 1210

The AASW is reviewing the Code of Ethics. [Comment on first draft. Click here.](#)

The logo for the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW), consisting of the letters "AASW" in a large, bold, pink, sans-serif font.