

## SA Branch 2018 State Election Policy Statement

### Introduction

The AASW represents 10,000 Social Workers across Australia, 1000 of which in SA. Social Workers actively support political schedules which identify immediate action to address the social, economic and cultural factors identified in this statement. AASW SA calls for:

### Registration of the Social Work Profession

- We call on all parties to commit to legislate for a registration scheme for the profession of Social Work in the state
- The legislation must mandate:
  - the title of “Social Worker” is limited to those qualified by a relevant tertiary degree as defined by AASW agreed professional practice standards for the social workers, ongoing continuing professional development and supervision and
  - fitness to practice, as well as a
  - comprehensive complaints notification scheme.

### Support for Aboriginal Communities

- We call for all parties to support the development of targeted pathways which enable Aboriginal peoples’ access to University Social Work Degrees.
- We call for a professional stream in public sector employment which assesses, acknowledges and promotes Aboriginal cultural knowledge in all areas.

### Aged care Practice in South Australia

Elder Abuse Discussion Paper 2017 Office for The Ageing - Government of SA

- We call for all parties to draft legislation to create a new South Australian Adult Protection Act and establish a South Australian Elder Protection Unit
- We call for all parties to support new rights-based legislation safeguarding older adults at risk to enable mandated responding to reports of alleged elder abuse
- We call for all parties to support Strategy to Safeguard the Rights of Older South Australians Action Plan 2015 - 2021 and the SA Health Service Plan for People with Dementia (and Delirium) 2015 – 2018.

### Child Well Being

- We call for the employment of degree qualified Social Workers to co-ordinate client assessments and case planning throughout government, non-government child protection agencies and community services
- We call on all parties to increase funding for community networks and services which support families to care for children in their family groups
- We call for an end to the “competitive tendering” process in the provision of child, family and community support services
- We call for a provision of funds for innovative programs which prevent Aboriginal children and young people being removed from their families; to support kinship carers and to develop creative alternatives to incarceration for youth.

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### Mental Health

- We call for all parties to lobby federal government for an increased number of subsidised therapeutic sessions within the “Better Access” program.
- We call for all parties to continue the roll out of the “Recovery Focused Model” of care across all mental health sites
- We call for all parties to support permanent employment positions for the Lived Experience Workforce
- We call for all parties to support the provision of “reflective, self-care supervision” for all mental health employees

### Housing and Homelessness

- We call for all parties to prioritise an increased in needs specific, sustainable social housing for vulnerable communities
- We call for all parties to urgently increase public and community housing options and institute policies to increase and ensure affordable rental opportunities (rent should be no more than one third of the income of the average renter)

### Disability

- The AASW calls for the National Disability Strategy 2010 2020 Advocacy Framework recommendations to be implemented
- We call for increase in coordination, individual case planning and management options to consumers.

### Domestic / Family Violence

- We call on all parties to continue using intervention orders that DO NOT have an expiry date
- We call for confidentiality of video evidence for courts, Privilege for counselling notes and professional advice for clients before their release
- We call on all parties to lobby for consistent legislation, assessment frameworks and response procedures for domestic violence and sexual assault across Australia
- We call for funding increases for specialised Domestic Violence Services and employer provision of employee training and reflective self-care supervision.

### Justice

- The AASW calls for the *10 by 20 Strategic Policy Panel Report* (“*10 by 20*”) recommendations to be implemented
- We call for the inclusion of the AASW in the Department of Correctional Services’ commissioning of partnerships, as described in Strategy Six, Recommendation 34 of the *10 by 20*
- We call for all parties to identify and address barriers that result in inadequate legal representation for individuals in contact with the justice system