



# BULLETIN

from the Nursing Co-Director, Mental Health Directorate

20 March 2018

## World Social Work Day 2018

Today is World Social Work Day and I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that social workers make to our consumers, their families and carers and to the multidisciplinary teams in which we work together. We have a fine team of social workers within all of our mental health teams. They place a priority on improving the life experience of consumers – their social, psychological and lifestyle experiences, in addition to the mental health issues common to all of us.



Neil Gilleade, Trish Senior-Karl, Sandra Matta, Kaye Thomas, Chris Burns (SA Mental Health Commissioner), Mary Hood (President SA Branch of AASW), Suzanne Marsh, Bob Caley

Social workers make a valuable contribution both within specialist services such as mental health and the broader community. In celebrating **World Social Work Day 2018** together we recognise the importance of their contribution to improving the quality of life of our consumers, their families, carers and the wider community.

The social work profession considers that individual and societal wellbeing is underpinned by socially inclusive communities which emphasise principles of social justice and respect for human dignity and human rights. Minimum standards of human rights include the right to mental health and health care, adequate housing, income, employment and education.

Social workers strive to deliver services that enable individuals to change and develop their capabilities to contribute to the success of communities in South Australia. They do this by providing skilled interventions to address the emotional, social, relationship, legal and economic factors that underpin the maintenance of good mental health. They also advocate within the broader systems that contribute to social and economic inequalities which can affect the dignity and worth of South Australians. In promoting social justice and human rights, Social Workers act as the agents of change and the practical supporters of those who are marginalised in society.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognise the unique work of social workers in mental health and to commemorate the breadth of their contribution to have a positive impact in the lives of our consumers, the important people in their lives and in the broader community.

Regards

**Lesley Legg**  
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