

## School Social Work Practice Group

<b>Convenor/s:</b>	Dr Chris Barrett
<b>Practice Group contact email:</b>	<a href="mailto:School.Social.Work.PG@aasw.asn.au">School.Social.Work.PG@aasw.asn.au</a>
<b>Practice Group contact phone number:</b>	0407 865 618
<b>Committee Member/s:</b>	Rebecca Kinsella, Amana Toyer, Amy Hitchcock, Debbie Williams, Susie Rourke, Chris Barrett
<b>Number of Practice Group members:</b>	Current mailing list around 150; 12-14 attendees in person and tele-conference or remote
<b>Number of AASW members in Practice Group:</b>	Approximately half
<b>Total number of meetings and events:</b>	16
<b>Year Practice Group was endorsed by AASW:</b>	1994
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	01/07/18 to 30/06/19
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p><b>2019 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the continuous operation of the School Social Work Practice Group (originally Special Interest Group) and also Celebrating 70 Years of School Social Work in Victoria</b></p> <p>To support the on-going development of specialist theory and practice for School Social Work</p> <p>To support experienced and novice school social workers in changing school and education department environments</p> <p>To provide support and induction to social workers new to school social work</p> <p>To provide support and education to social work students on placement in schools</p>

Financial Year 2018-2019	
Goals / Activities Undertaken	Outcomes / Achievements
Practice Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 sessions / 2 hours per term, afternoons</li> </ul>	Organisational updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in School Support Services</li> <li>Increasing numbers of social workers employed directly by school principals</li> </ul> Social trends and practice issues 2019 Focus on Cultural Responsiveness, working with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students</li> <li>Muslim students</li> <li>Gender and sexually diverse students</li> </ul>
Peer Supervision	The Practice Group has been facilitating group or peer supervision since 2012 to help mitigate the lack of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sessions / 2 hours per school term, mornings</li> <li>• 4 sessions / 4 hours per school holiday 10am-3pm</li> <li>• Total available: 24 hours</li> </ul>	<p>specialist school social work supervision provided by employing schools or school systems. Unfortunately there has been little change in terms of widespread understanding of the need to resource professional supervision, which can be a considerable financial burden especially for school social workers employed by individual school principals. Participants identify as School Social Workers and follow the <i>AASW Practice Standards for School Social Workers 2008</i>, and the multi-level parameters for school social work practice.</p> <p>Areas covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-systemic practice for school social work</li> <li>• Emphasis on mental health practice with children/young people</li> <li>• Individual counselling, casework, case management, behaviour consultation &amp; support</li> <li>• Small group and whole class work</li> <li>• Professional development, social and psycho-education for teaching and other school staff</li> <li>• Organisational issues: working with principals, being the lone social worker, dealing with different values or emphases</li> </ul>
<p>Colloquia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sessions, 1 ½ hours per term, 4.30-6pm</li> </ul>	<p>Particular practice issues of interest to school social workers, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70 Years of School Social work in Victoria: Reviewing school social work theory &amp; practice in changing organisational landscapes</li> <li>• Professional Supervision for Group and Peer Settings</li> <li>• Mental Health Accreditation for School Social Workers</li> <li>• Self-harm and Suicide Ideation: Considerations for School Social Workers</li> </ul>

<b>Financial Year 2019-2020 Action Plan</b>			
<b>Objective / Initiative</b>	<b>Actions / Strategies</b>	<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>Person Responsible and Preferred Timeline</b>
Professional Development	Practice Group x 4 Peer Supervision x 8	AASW SSWPG (Vic) email / web page  Vic Branch support  Meeting room  Phone/video conference	Convenor  2019-2010
Consolidation of Practice Group Committee	Recruitment, training		Convenor  2019-2010