



Queensland Social Work Conference

The Bi-annual Queensland Social Work conference opens this Friday (November 6) at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast.

Social workers in Queensland are integral to the good running of Government and not-for-profit services, such as hospitals, school counseling, child well-being and protection, family welfare and mental health services.

The Conference is an opportunity for social workers and their colleagues to hear best practice examples and to share their experiences.

Professor Bob Lonne, Queenslander and National President of the AASW, will be presenting work on the workforce challenges ahead in Government and not-for-profit services. Professor Lonne said, "A looming workforce shortage, combined with an ageing population, and an increased demand for complex services, requires all Governments, employers and universities to work together to develop a strategy to attract high quality skilled professionals into public services."

Professor Robert Bland will be launching a book on social work and mental health services in Australia. *Social Work Practice in Mental Health* emphasises the importance of appreciating the lived reality of mental illness, and of establishing partnerships with consumers by incorporating a consumer perspective into all mental health work.

Professor Bland is chair of Mental Health at the University of Queensland. The book is co-authored with Noel Renouf and Ann Tullgren will be launched at the Conference on Saturday 7 November.

The full program is available on the [events](http://www.aasw.asn.au) page of the AASW website (www.aasw.asn.au).