



Minister Butler launches new Code of Ethics

The Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Honourable Mark Butler MP, will launch the new AASW Code of Ethics at the AASW's AGM in Brisbane this evening (November 12).

The Code of Ethics is one of the social work profession's core documents. It expresses the values and responsibilities, and informs and guides the ethical practice of the social work profession in Australia.

The AASW Code of Ethics

- identifies the values and ethics which underpin ethical social work practice;
- provides a guide and a standard for ethical social work conduct and accountable service delivery;
- provides social workers with a framework for ethical decision making;
- holds members of the AASW accountable for their ethical practice.

"Social Workers are committed to high standards in the conduct of their professional duties and we are delighted that the Minister recognises this by launching the Code at our AGM this year," said **AASW President Professor Bob Lonne**.

"The AASW's new *Code of Ethics* is the culmination of contributions from over 400 social workers, social work students, AASW committees and consumer organisations across Australia, gathered during a consultation process conducted over an 18 month period," said **AASW Acting CEO Karl Charikar**.

The new Code of Ethics contains:

- A stronger commitment to Australia's first peoples, including a preamble which recognises and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and indigenous art work on the cover;
- Reworked Australian social work values to reflect respects for persons, a commitment to social justice and professional integrity
- New content, such as a new section on ethical practice and Remote Service Delivery

The Ethics Complaints Management Process (ECMP) is a mechanism to ensure that social workers meet the expectations of the Code of Ethics, and clients with concerns are encouraged to contact the program staff. However as the social work profession is not registered the service can only enforce standards on social workers who choose to be members of the AASW. The AASW calls on Governments to start the process of professional registration for social workers