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Australian Indigenous Social Work and Social Policy Special Issue

The Australian Association of Social Work (AASW) and Routledge journals have released a special issue of *Australian Social Work* on Australian Indigenous Social Work and Social Policy (volume 64, issue 1, 2011). One article from the special edition is now available free from www.informaworld.com/asw

This issue includes papers from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous social work academics and practitioners. It has a broad focus, covering reconciliation; Indigenous practice approaches; culturally-sensitive practice; and Indigenous perspectives on social work education, policy, and social program developments.

In an invited editorial to introduce the special issue, Professor Steve Larkin, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Leadership at Charles Darwin University, comments on the systemic and institutional factors that contribute to the marginalization and devaluing of Indigenous ways of knowing. He urges social work researchers, educators and practitioners to reflect upon their core beliefs about the nature of knowledge, including *who* can know, *how* they know, and what counts as evidence for claims of intellect. He argues that social inclusion means Indigenous people are valued for their different worldviews and cultural beliefs, identities and values, and that these should have equivalence in the academy, the professions, and other arenas.

This theme is also evident in the free access article from Bindi Bennett and colleagues who present findings from their research exploring the nature of effective social work practice with Aboriginal people and communities. The article presents a social work practice framework for working alongside Aboriginal people in a range of practice contexts, which integrates and values both Aboriginal and Western worldviews.

Professor Christine Bigby, Editor of *Australian Social Work*, said, "The articles in the special issue make a vital contribution to social work scholarship in Australia, and *Australian Social Work* is pleased to showcase the special issue to support World Social Work Day 2011."

Kandie Allen-Kelly, AASW CEO, said, "Social Work in Australia has a chequered history on engagement with Indigenous peoples, being a part of damaging policies but also at the forefront of efforts to establish rights and better standards of living. The AASW is delighted that the *Journal* can demonstrate the high quality of Indigenous social work practice and research."

Link to article: [Bindi Bennett, Joanna Zubrzycki, Violet Bacon, *What Do We Know? The Experiences of Social Workers Working Alongside Aboriginal People.*](#)

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