



## **Annual Conference: Leaders in social capital**

The Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers comes at an important time. After many years of underfunding of community services and a lack of investment in social infrastructure such as affordable housing, accessible health care and child care, and a lack of investment in training for jobless Australians, “Strength in Unity” will focus on the critical role that social workers and welfare workers play across a range of services.

“Strength in Unity” is the joint annual conference of the AASW, the Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Education (AASWWE), and the Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers (AIWCW).

The Conference draws together leaders in international social work and social welfare practice. Social work and social welfare professionals work in Government services, in not-for-profit agencies and in policy and research positions as well as universities.

Keynote speakers at the AASW Conference include:

**Professor Dorothy Scott** will present the latest research on educating social workers for working with children and with the challenges of child protection. Professor Scott is Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia.

**Dr Romel Mackelprang** presents a keynote paper on current developments in the field. Dr Mackelprang is the director of the Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access at Eastern Washington University.

**Lynne Berry** is a UK academic and leading figure in workforce planning. Lynne is Chief Executive of WRVS – a UK charity that promotes health and independence for older people.

**Dr Karen Healy** is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Human Services at The University of Queensland. Dr Healy will present international research on best practice in supporting the next generation of social welfare practitioners.

Conference will be closed on Wednesday afternoon, 12 November, by **Clare Martin**, the new CEO of ACOSS (former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory).

“Strength in Unity” Conference is at Luna Park in Sydney from November 9 – 12. Keynote speakers are available for interview and can be contacted through the AASW media officer for duration of the Conference.