

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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*For immediate release*

**World Social Work Day 2012: A global movement for change**

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 is World Social Work Day. This is the annual opportunity for all social work organisations to celebrate the significant role of social workers at many levels of society.

The Australian Association of Social Workers is hosting events across the country to highlight and enhance social workers role in a global movement for social change. The themes of Social Work Day events range across the spectrum of issues impacting on social workers and the people they serve. This year, World Social Work Day activities will include presentations by leading advocates in fields of reconciliation and Indigenous affairs, mental health and social change.

As a profession, social workers commit to social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being and to achieve social justice. Professional social work emerged in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and over more than one hundred years has become an increasingly diverse and sophisticated profession whose members are involved in a myriad of change activities. These activities vary from assisting disadvantaged individuals to achieve better access to resources and services they need to live a decent life through major policy reforms in fields such as domestic violence, child protection, ageing, and the recognition of the human rights of people living with disabilities and mental illness.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is a day to celebrate the social work profession and our connection to a global movement for a more just world.

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