

## Social Worker Survey Results April 2014

As you are aware we circulated a survey to social workers in April 2014 to get your input into what social issues were of concern to you and to hear from you as to what actions you believe are relevant for the Tasmanian Branch AASW to carry out.

Twenty eight (28) people completed the survey. There were 26 AASW members and 2 non-members who contributed to the survey, with 7 from NW/W, 7 from the North, and 14 from the south of the state.

The survey participants indicated that they would like the Tasmanian Branch AASW to have a higher profile on social justice issues so that a more informed debate occurs through the media. Social workers stated they thought it very relevant for AASW to have a public profile and be involved in the political debate on issues affecting the disadvantaged or those who are often not 'heard' in our community.

Here is a summary of what social workers had to say.

This table shows the response participants gave when asked to list the THREE areas of most concern.

<b>Please indicate the 3 social issues that are of MOST concern to you?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Health policy	52.0%	13
Policies for children and youth	44.0%	11
International human rights	36.0%	9
Housing policy	28.0%	7
Aboriginal policy	28.0%	7
Income support issues	28.0%	7
Legislative reviews	20.0%	5
Discrimination	16.0%	4
Environmental issues	4.0%	1
Other	20.0%	5

NB: suggestions under "Other" included men's issues, mental health, impact of Australian government budget cuts.

The ideas participants had in regard to activity the Tasmanian Branch AASW should carry out are shown below.

<b>Which type of AASW Branch activity do you see as effective in raising the profile of social issues?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Submissions to parliamentary enquiries	68.0%	17
Joint responses with other social action organisations eg TASCROSS	64.0%	16
Releasing media statements	64.0%	16
Writing letters to ministers, politicians	48.0%	12
Social justice issues as part of CPD events	44.0%	11
Selection of actions dependent on issue	44.0%	11
Participating in marches and rallies	20.0%	5
Adding to AASW Facebook page, website	20.0%	5
Writing letters to the editor	16.0%	4
Other (please specify)	4.0%	1

The response to the survey will certainly inform our activity on behalf of social workers in Tasmania. However, our committee would love to hear from you at any time if you have an issue that you feel needs highlighting in some way. As many employees have restrictions placed on them in regard to making public comment, the Tasmanian Branch AASW is often able to raise issues on behalf of the social work profession.

As social justice is such a key platform of our profession our Branch Committee aim to maintain a profile in the media, and by submitting submissions to enquiries, as well as being actively involved in consultation processes that regularly occur through State and Australian government departments.



Our Branch is planning another two state-wide professional development events for this year. We will have social justice and social policy as a key part of the programs. So save a date in your diary and keep a look out for the details of these events.

We will be hosting an event in Campbell Town on 12 September 2014. This event will be a collaborative and interactive session that will explore the topic of culture, race and families within the Tasmanian context.

Friday 14 November 2014 we will hold an event prior to our AGM dinner in Launceston. The speakers and focus for this event will be health, children and reconciliation.

We welcome all feedback and suggestions. Your local committee is looking forward to hearing from you.

**Carol Dorgelo**

Social Advocacy subcommittee

Tasmanian Branch AASW

[carol.dorgelo@gmail.com](mailto:carol.dorgelo@gmail.com)

0459 999 193