



**AASW**

**Australian Association  
of Social Workers**

**Queensland Branch**

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Hello future social work professionals, I am the Queensland Branch President, Dr Fotina Hardy, and I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to the profession and congratulations on your learning journey so far.

I also take this opportunity to encourage you to begin your professional journey as a member of the Association. Being a member of the Association brings with it a host of membership benefits and an increasing preference from potential employers. Perhaps more importantly however, membership connotes a commitment to professional growth and excellence, and signals a professional identity that holds at its core a commitment to social inclusion, social justice and human rights.

The Queensland Branch has over 1500 members and is in an exciting time of membership growth within the state. At a Branch level we offer a range of opportunities for you to be involved in our work and really encourage this as a way of nurturing a thriving community of professionals.

Some of these opportunities include:

• **Practice Groups -**

Practice Groups are a way to share, increase and disseminate knowledge between social workers with a particular sphere of interest or regional base. The Branch currently have the following active groups, and you can contact me if you would like to join one; Private Practitioners Practice Group; Clinical & Mental Health Practice Group; Bundaberg Practice Group; Gympie Practice Group, Toowoomba Practice Group; Gold Coast Practice Group; Student & New Graduates Practice Group.

•**Social Policy -**

The Branch plays a major role in facilitating the voice of social work in policy issues which impact the profession and the community through the development of position statements, submissions, campaigns and media statements. We invite members (generally through EOI's in the monthly Branch e-bulletin) to volunteer their expertise and knowledge to these activities regularly so be sure to keep your eyes peeled for these opportunities as they arise.

• **Continuing Professional Development -**

The Branch delivers a variety of CPD workshops and seminars across the state and throughout the year. For those of you who are in rural and remote areas and those who are 'time poor', I highly recommend you register with SWOT, our online training site where you will find a number of info sessions and resources which may be of interest.

To learn more about what we do as a Branch, please feel free to visit our Branch pages here [AASW Queensland Branch](#) or contact our Branch offices at [aaswqld@asw.asn.au](mailto:aaswqld@asw.asn.au).

With the warmest wishes for an exciting and fulfilling start to your professional journey,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fotina".

Dr Fotina Hardy  
Qld Branch President