Social workers have played a high-key role in enhancing people’s well-being and addressing poverty and all sorts of structural inequalities. Nevertheless, the notion of Green social work is not as widespread in Australia as it is in other countries. Environmental issues impact on people’s and communities’ well-being. Inequitable allocations of limited natural resources; the commodification of our everyday lives; fair trade and animal welfare; the casualties and victims of slow violence and displacement due to natural disasters, both human, non-human and environmental, are not counted. Academics and practitioners involved in Environmental Social Work have underlined the links between the social, economic, historical, intergenerational, ethical and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

**BUT WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

Such is the domination of the anthropocentric – and many a times androcentric – paradigm in our era that the intersectionality of oppressions is often ignored. Thus, the interdependence of human communities with the flora and fauna is questioned in an effort to advance business and government interests. We believe that working together to advance society and ensuring that our practices as humans do not cost the Earth, is critical.

The personal is not only political but also environmental. A planetary-consciousness approach which embraces Indigenous and local wisdom needs to be embraced in order to sustain and regenerate the landscape and the oceans. The environment should not be viewed as a commodity but as something integral and imbedded with cultural meaning for the communities of human and non-human beings that inhabit within it.

The Australian Association of Social Workers maintains that social justice and environmental justice are interconnected. The Green Social Work practice group will give us the opportunity to reach out to other practitioners in similar communities of practice and interest and to embrace a multidisciplinary approach. Our aim is to advance our society and pay our respects to sustainable ways of living and practicing as social workers.

The Green Social Work practice group was instigated by RMIT students. We have been fighting to raise awareness around the intersectionality of human-constructed ethics, animal welfare ethics, inter-human ethics and eco integrity ethics. This AASW practice group aims to bring together practitioners, academics and students from across Australia that embrace Green activism from a social work perspective. Our work context has rapidly changed and will continue to change. As social workers we need to remember that social justice includes an environmental dimension and should not be anthropocentric.