



Join the School Social Work Practice Group



The School Social Work Practice Group are seeking more school social workers to become involved in the running of the Practice Group so that we can continue the work that we do.

If you have considered joining or would like to find out more about being involved in the group, please contact the co-convenors.

We are an active practice group has operated continuously for over 21 years, with a membership that is passionate about social justice and ensuring that every child and young person has the opportunity to receive a high quality education and reach their potential. We focus on issues of child, youth and education policy and practice, as well as the specialist professional practice of school social work. We represent an increasing number of school social workers employed by individual government and non-government schools, alongside those traditionally employed by the state-wide government education system. The practice group developed the Practice Standards for School Social Workers, ratified and published by the AASW (2011), and now widely used throughout Australia as a standard for practice.

The practice group continues to speak on issues related to young people and education. We contributed to the debate around school chaplaincy funding and provided background material to support the AASW's media challenge to this policy. With representation on the national AASW School Social Work Advisory Group, we have recently been involved in updating and redrafting the practice standards. Practice Group members have presented papers and workshops at international conferences. In 2015-2016, three workshops on collaborative social work in the school setting have been presented at Victorian Branch and the AASW National Symposium, with appreciative feedback from attendees including both school social work specialists and other social workers.

For two decades the School Social Work Practice Group has promoted school social work as specialist practice, providing professional development, induction, supervision, professional, peer and industrial support. It has been the site for theory and practice development for social work focussing on students in their learning environments. If you are passionate about school social work, and would like to expand your own knowledge and experience while contributing to the promotion of your specialisation and the wellbeing of your colleagues, we encourage you to join the Practice Group. We especially welcome new volunteers to the committee as we move ahead with existing programs and innovative projects.

If you have considered or would like to find out more about being involved in the practice group, please contact the co-convenors:

**Chris Barrett on 0407 865 618 or Paul Jameson on 0425 879 811.
Emails to: School.Social.Work.PG@aasw.asn.au or visit <https://www.aasw.asn.au/victoria/school-social-work-practice-group>**



