An estimated 1 in 5 Australians will experience chronic pain in their lifetime, but less than 10 per cent of these will gain access to effective management. Chronic pain is complex and affects every aspect of quality of life, not only the physical domain.

The prevalence of chronic pain in the community means that social workers will inevitably work with people living with the condition, even if they are not working in the health sector. At present, social workers are not well represented in the pain management field. Social workers will be more able to respond appropriately and effectively to clients with chronic pain if they have an understanding of the integrated biological, psychological and social aspects of chronic pain, and the challenges that people living with pain face. The aim of this training is to:

- Outline and discuss the biopsychosocial and socio-ecological models of health as applied to chronic pain
- Provide an overview of pain management approaches and available resources
- Identify gaps in current service provision
- Explore the roles social workers could play in pain management

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand chronic pain from a biopsychosocial and socio-ecological perspective
- Increased knowledge of pain management approaches and resources
- Identify challenges in the current management of pain from a social work perspective
- Appreciate the potential for social work to contribute to the pain management field

### Meet the presenter

Amanda Nielsen is a researcher and social worker. She completed her PhD on the social context of living with chronic pain in 2009. She is currently employed as a Research Officer at The University of Queensland, with a focus on consumer education in musculoskeletal pain.

### A half day skills-development seminar

**Understanding and Responding to Chronic Pain - a role for Social Work**

<table>
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<th><strong>WHEN</strong></th>
<th>Wednesday 11 September 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHERE</strong></td>
<td>AASW Queensland Branch Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 Ross Street, Paddington, Brisbane</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
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*A light afternoon tea will be provided.*