

A Social Work Blueprint for Change

"This is an opportunity for social workers from across Australia to network, share ideas, and seek solutions to the professional challenges we are facing over the next decade. We want to stimulate discussion about the roles that social workers can play in building better and sustainable futures for all. This document identifies key strategies to strengthen the profession of Social Work in Australia and reform the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) as the body that we, as members, fund to represent us. This Blueprint from *SocialWorkersUnited* Australia is put together by 'non-partisan' social workers, working in different sectors, from across the country." (September 2025)

The Board of the Australian Association of Social Workers unanimously endorsed the Social Work Blueprint for Change at its meeting on 16 December 2025.

Suggested strategies

1. Make AASW an affordable membership-based association.
2. Encourage more Australian social workers to engage with AASW by building inclusive processes that increase the Association's responsiveness and accountability to its members.
3. Use more membership income to support State and local activities in order to strengthen capacity and provide professional support at the state/territory, regional, and local level.
4. Develop a strong public/advocacy voice and research capacity in relation to national issues facing the Australian population that relate to core social work values such as social justice and equity.
5. Truth, respect and reconciliation across all activities and engagement.
6. Maintain social work ownership of our professional Code of Ethics and Practice Standards
7. Ensure effective Officer and Staff ethical accountability at all levels of corporate AASW.
8. Ensure that AASW is compliant with external quality standards such as the ACNC and the legislative provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*.
9. Restore educator collaboration on social work education standards to protect and grow our professional knowledge base and expand our practice capabilities.
10. Lead genuine national discussion and build collaboration across the profession and with key external stakeholders about key issues such as registration.
11. Review the AASW English Language Policy and other mechanisms to provide support to non-English speaking background social workers.