

IFSW President David N Jones has sent greetings to social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand on their annual social work day. Responding to the ANZASW press release "Social Workers deserve greater recognition — across all sectors" the IFSW President issued the following statement:

I congratulate ANZASW for their choice of theme for their annual social work day.

The wider community (and social work itself) needs to recognise the diverse settings in which social workers are employed. A social work qualification and experience gives a broad grounding in all forms of human and social behaviour and experience shows that it is a very good preparation for many employment roles, including many that are outside traditional social service.

Sadly many social workers employed outside of social service settings do not publicise their social work qualifications and experience, often because they feel it will not be valued. Yet in New Zealand, and around the world, we know that growing social problems and social challenges mean that we have a growing need for social workers, as the ANZASW points out today.

I call on all social workers, wherever they are employed, including senior service managers and local service leaders, to be proud of their qualification and unique experience. If you are a social worker, let people know. If we are not willing to be positive about our own qualification, how can we expect young people to choose this crucial profession. Social workers make a crucial difference to local communities and national life. We need to make sure that people can see and appreciate the contribution we make.

With best wishes to all social work colleagues in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Read the statement from ANZASW:

[http://www.anzasw.org.nz/user/file/172/ANZASW%20NewsRelease %20Social%20Workers%20lack%20recognition.pdf](http://www.anzasw.org.nz/user/file/172/ANZASW%20NewsRelease%20Social%20Workers%20lack%20recognition.pdf)

Read press coverage

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU0809/S00342.htm>