

Proposal for the Implementation of an IFSW Indigenous Committee (IC)

Since the adoption of the IFSW Policy on Indigenous People at the General Meeting held in Adelaide in October 2004, there has been consistent dialogue through the International Indigenous Voices in Social Work network and subsequent IFSW General Assemblies to progress the representation of indigenous social workers at a global level.

The establishment of an Indigenous Committee within the IFSW structure was proposed as a means by which the IFSW Policy on Indigenous Peoples and the recognition of indigenous knowledges as stated in the IFSW Global Definition of Social Work, can be realised.

The 2014 General Assembly in Melbourne agreed to the establishment of an Indigenous Committee to assist with policy statements of IFSW, the UN and elsewhere. In order to progress the formation and implementation of the Indigenous Committee, the Co-ordinating body of Aotearoa/NZ proposes the following:-

OBJECTIVE:

1. Immediately prior to the General Meeting at Calgary in July 2020 there will be a meeting of the indigenous Committee

Rationale - to consolidate the position of the Indigenous Committee of the IFSW at a global level, which will be presented to the General Meeting.

PROCESS:

2. In July 2019 the identified Indigenous representatives of the five regions, will meet for the first face-to-face meeting. It is also proposed the Indigenous Committee will engage with the Blackfoot Nation representatives in Calgary, to pay respect to the people of the land.

Rationale – Prior to the 2020 conference, the Indigenous Committee will work towards strengthening the indigenous representation and content of the conference planning process and the General Meeting.

3. Also in July 2019, and as an adjunct to 2. above, the Indigenous Committee will progress the Principles and Objectives, and ratify the Terms of Reference. These will be presented to the IFSW at the July 2020 General Meeting.

Rationale - to discuss and consolidate the processes that forms the foundation of the Indigenous Committee and its work.

4. By March 2019 we ask that the IFSW Secretariat will have contacted the Presidents of each of the remaining four regions to seek their assistance to identify at least one indigenous social worker representative to attend the 2019 meeting in Calgary. The contact details are to be forwarded to the IFSW Secretariat.
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APPENDIX D

5. On receipt of contact details of the Regional indigenous social worker representatives, Aotearoa/New Zealand will facilitate dialogue with the nominated representatives to progress the plan for July 2019, and beyond.

RECOMMENDTION

6. That IFSW allocate the amount of 20,000 Swiss francs to cover flights and accommodation of the Indigenous representatives from the five IFSW regions to attend the first face-to-face meeting in Calgary 2019. This fund is to be administered by the IFSW Secretariat as a separate budget item entitled Indigenous Committee. Accountability for the expenditure of this allocation will be presented to the IC at the 2019 meeting.