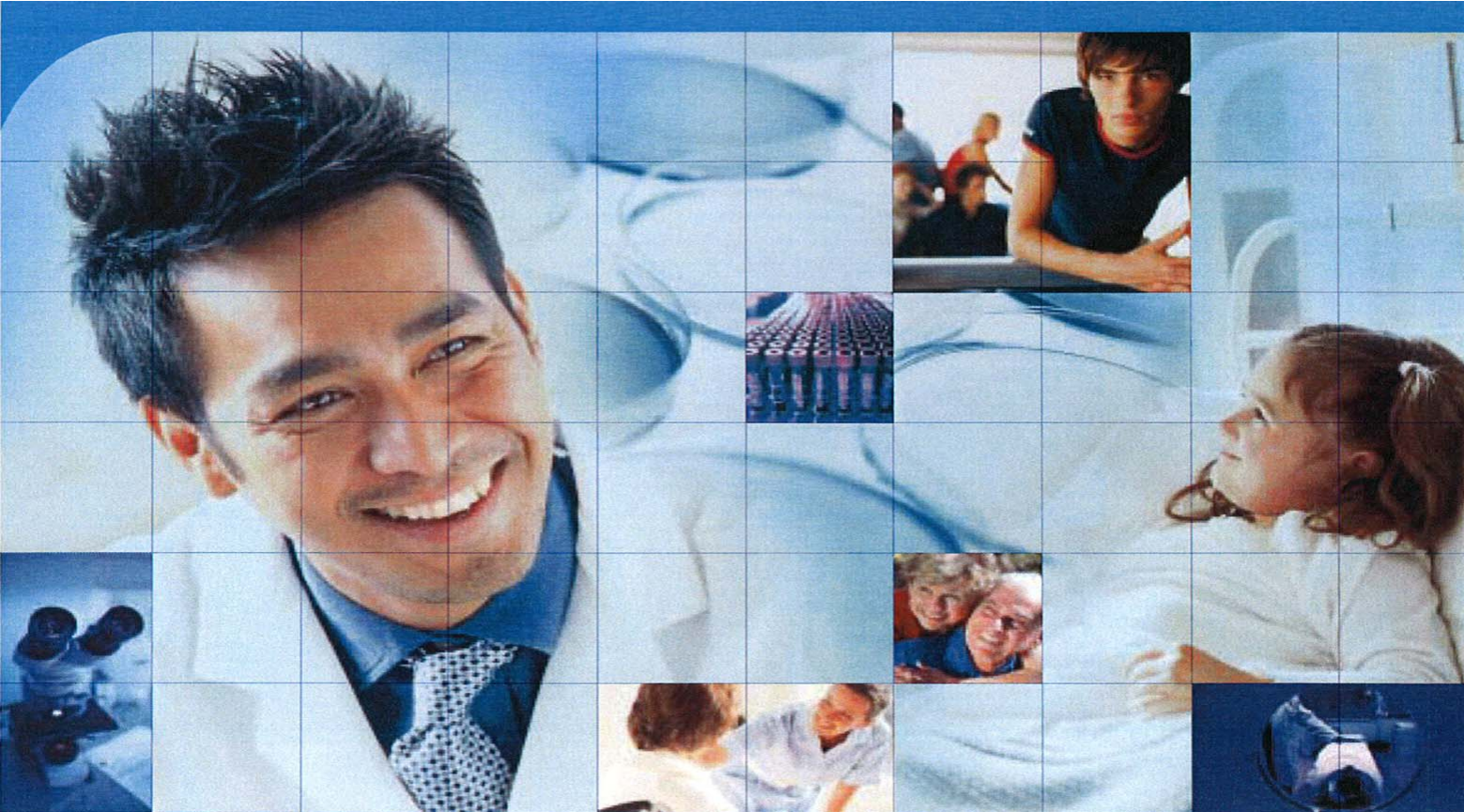


SOCIAL WORKER



Health
South Western Sydney
Local Health District



What is a Social Worker

The purpose of Social Work intervention is to help people improve their quality of life. Social workers assist people to recognise their potential to reach greater understanding of themselves and their issues, learn effective coping skills and empower them to make appropriate changes and decisions to achieve better outcomes. The aim is to ensure people are able to achieve the best benefit from the health care intervention.

Social Workers work with individuals and families of all ages who may be in crisis or have emotional issues or are effected by past or current trauma. In Hospital they work with people of all diagnostic groups and situations varying from people having long term chronic life threatening illness to people who have been suddenly injured or disabled.

Social Workers may also be involved when an illness, trauma or hospitalization causes crisis for a patient and /or their family.

Roles of a Social Worker

Social workers assist patients and their family/ carer where psychosocial, emotional and environmental factors may have contributed, or impacted on, their diagnosis, recovery, rehabilitation and ongoing support of patient and their families

Health Social Workers take on a broad range of roles including counselling, therapeutic interventions, crisis intervention, group work, case management, health education & training to community students & staff, research, health promotion, management, community development, consultation, liaison and advocacy .

Social Workers are a member of the multi-disciplinary team and provide patients and their families with counselling, support, crisis intervention; discharge planning, advocacy, referrals to additional services, psychosocial education and practical assistance. The Social Worker focuses on the patient's personal circumstances, views, strengths, social supports and coping strategies. The aim is to assist patients and their families/carers to manage the impact of health challenges more effectively. Social workers collaborate within multidisciplinary teams.

Where are Social Workers employed in Health?

Social Workers work with people who are experiencing health challenges, both in the hospital and in the community. Community health settings include Early childhood, Sexual Assault, Mental Health, Youth Health, Drug & Alcohol, Aged Care Assessment Team, Rehabilitation, Child Protection Services, Brain Injury, Sexual Health (HIV/AIDS), Domestic Violence, Palliative Care and Refugee health.

A Career in Social Work

To practice as a social worker you need to complete a Bachelor of Social Work - 4 year university degree course which requires successful completion of 2 or 3 field work placements. Eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Work is an essential criterion for all health social work positions.

New graduates commence at Level 1 (on Year 2) which has 3 annual increments and progress to Level 2. Progression to Levels 3 and above can be based on either managerial or clinical expertise.

Professional development

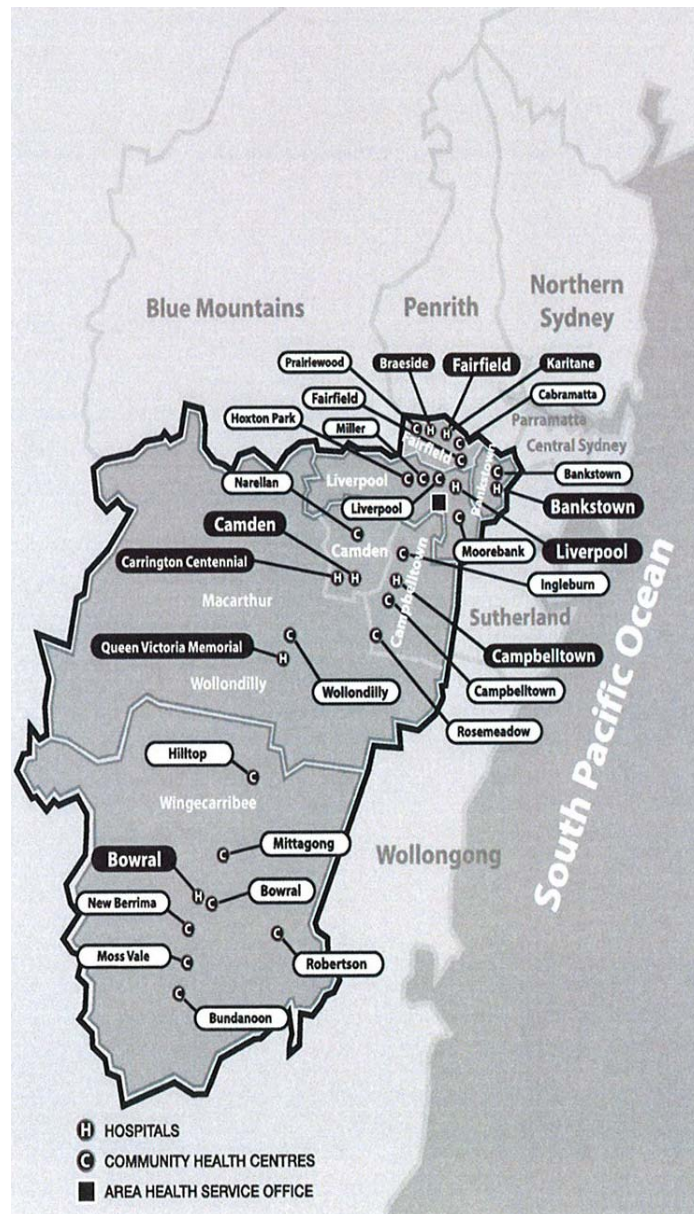
Social Workers employed in SWSLHD will receive ongoing professional development and support. This is provided by clinical supervision, professional development activities and support to attend conferences and courses as well as internal and external training.

What sort of person should I be?

Enjoy working with people
Non-judgemental
Have empathy and emotional maturity
Enjoy cultural diversity
Aware of own value system

Personal skills required

Excellent communication skills
An analytical mind and good planning skills
Respect for people's right to their value system and right to determine their own future.



CONTACT DETAILS

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