



## **International Network for School Social Work**

**<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>**

**Contact [mhuxtable@olympus.net](mailto:mhuxtable@olympus.net)**

### **Electronic Newsletter May 2012**

Editor: Marion Huxtable

### **An Opportunity to Develop an International School Social Work Credential Michelle Alvarez**

As you may remember, I sent out a survey in November 2011 about interest in online coursework in the field of school social work. The response was very good and as a result I was contacted by several countries to talk further about how to collaborate on the development of school social work courses around the world.

From these discussions came the idea proposed by the Singapore Association of Social Workers (School Social Work Chapter) and the Students Care Service - Centre of Specialization for School Social Work in Singapore. They envision the development of a school social work credential that would be recognized by international partners and by countries just beginning to develop school social work services. For example, a person wanting to become a school social worker would complete coursework (offered at several universities around the world) that includes assignments specific to the country of the course participant. On passing the course, participants will receive a certificate of completion that would be recognized by their country. Should the participant later wish to practice school social work in a partner country, the participant can take “booster” modules to ensure understanding of the socio-cultural practice context of the partner country and receives a certificate that allows him to sit for licensing exams or work as a school social worker in that partner country.

Developing a credential such as this will take representation from many countries and universities. The School Social Work Association of America, the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SSW Chapter) and Students Care Service will partner with any representatives interested in pursuing the development of an International School Social Work Credential. Meetings will be held through an electronic platform such as Skype or Adobe Connect. Meeting times will be coordinated with all time zones involved and participants will have choices for meeting times. It is hoped that a team will be begin to work by July 2012 on this project.

If you are interested in being on the development committee, please email Dr. Michelle Alvarez, [malvarez@mnsu.edu](mailto:malvarez@mnsu.edu).

## School Social Workers Vital to School Success in Tasmania

Nick McKim, MP Feb 1, 2012

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/news/latest/?a=344873>

School social workers play an integral role in assisting students to be the best they can be, the Minister for Education & Skills Nick McKim, said today.

Officially opening the 2012 School Social Worker Conference, Mr. McKim said social workers were vital in supporting students by bringing schools and families together.

“We want every student in our public education system to have the opportunity to achieve their potential in an environment where they feel safe, supported and happy,” Mr. McKim said. “Social workers, carers, families and communities all have an important role.” Mr. McKim said that the mental and emotional wellbeing of students was linked to learning participation and achievement and enabled successful educational pathways.

“Education must be tailored to the individual needs of each student, with their health and wellbeing considered as integral factors to their learning. School social workers are vital in supporting schools to provide happy, healthy and safe environments where students are equipped to reach their potential.

*The population of Tasmania is 507,626 (June 2010). Main centres are Hobart (the capital city with 214,705 people) Launceston (105,445) Burnie (just under 20,000) and Devonport (25,550).*

They are responsible for mentoring, assisting and guiding our students,

and contribute to the achievement of outcomes in Tasmanian education.” The professional learning forum is an opportunity for Department of Education school social workers to network with colleagues from around the state, discuss relevant issues affecting schools and communities, update knowledge and listen to dynamic guest speakers.



## School Social Work is Growing in Tasmania

April 27, 2012

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=34706>



The Minister for Education and Skills, Nick McKim, said six new school social workers, totaling 3.9 FTE, would begin work in Southern Tasmania within the next week. Mr. McKim said that he recognized that school social workers were a very important part of supporting students.

“Every school should have access to a social worker and the Department of Education has been working to recruit new employees to fill vacancies in the south”, Mr. McKim said.

“They are very specialized positions and I am pleased that six new social workers will begin work within the week.”