



MEDIA RELEASE / Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers

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Social Workers Day brings news of International Social Work Conference for 2009

Social Workers are celebrating Social Workers Day throughout Aotearoa New Zealand today - Wednesday 24 September 2008 under the theme of "We Stand Beside You – Nga Pou Tukutahi".

"It is important that social workers take the time on this day to acknowledge the valued role they have within Aotearoa New Zealand and to celebrate their part in the social work profession. The theme this year describes the daily dedication that social workers demonstrate in standing beside the people they work with every day, and their ethical commitment to standing up for human rights and social justice," says Rose Henderson, President of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW).

"It is appropriate that this commitment to social justice will be central to the build-up of the recently announced Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) being held next year in Auckland. The theme of this conference being held in November 2009 is 'Many Voices, Many Communities, Social Justice for all'. The subthemes that will be covered include population dislocation, indigenous populations, social work research, youth justice and social exclusion and inclusion".

"This is a major international event for social workers and winning the bid to host this event is sure to provide a real boost for the profile of the social work profession in this country and in the wider region," says Rose Henderson.

"It is 13 years since ANZASW last hosted a major IFSW event. In addition it will be the first time that the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of IFSW is held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE). We expect that the bringing together of social work practitioners and social work educators will reinvigorate the profession here in Aotearoa New Zealand and is a golden opportunity for social workers here to become involved both as presenters and participants in an international event".

ANZASW looks forward to using the opportunities presented by this event, to strengthen the professional identity of social workers and to build a better public understanding of the role of professional social work".

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The website address for the 20th ASIA PACIFIC SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 2009 is: www.swinnz2009.co.nz