



ACWA

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Formerly known as the Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers, our name changed to the Australian Community Workers Association (ACWA) in May 2011 to better reflect the contemporary practice of human service work in Australia.

Founded in 1969, we are the recognised professional association for all human services workers within Australia's community services sector. Our members deliver services to people who live in poverty, are marginalised or otherwise disadvantaged or at risk. Some of the occupation titles of our members are welfare workers, counsellors, domestic violence workers, social entrepreneurs, multicultural support workers, youth workers, disability and aged care workers.

Our members deliver services, social enterprises and other activities from a variety of settings within the community sector and across age, geographic, gender, religious, cultural and political divides to improve the lives and aspirations of individuals, families, groups and communities.

Our role is to support community workers by;

- actively influencing future directions for the profession;
- supporting community organisations to be innovative and diligent;
- implementing professional development and networking opportunities;
- advocating for high standards in education and training; and

- promoting innovation and quality service delivery for the ongoing enhancement of community services and education.

We work in partnership with industry, government, unions, other peak bodies and professional associations, employers associations, education providers and for-profit and not-for-profit organisations to achieve our objectives.

The past twelve months have seen enormous changes for ACWA and the next twelve months will be an exciting time for continued change. Our 2011/2014 Strategic Plan is firmly in place and focuses on four strategic directions:

1. **Organisational sustainability:** stabilising the operations of the organisation through a review of policies and procedures and diversifying our income generating activities.
2. **Build a community of community workers:** strengthening our membership base and providing opportunities for members to enhance their professional development and share ideas through greater networking activities.
3. **Strengthen community services education and learning:** Promoting the importance of professional education requirements for community work graduates and ongoing professional development of workers.
4. **Sector leadership:** Advocating for structural change so that the professional practice of community workers is fully recognised and valued by government, the broader public and other stakeholders.

For the full strategic plan, and to learn more about ACWA, please visit our website www.acwa.org.au

ACWA and IoW have kept in touch for many years and we look forward to sharing our learnings and re-kindling our relationship with your Board and members.

Lynda Ford, CEO

