



# International Federation of Social Workers Fédération Internationale des Travailleurs Sociaux Federación Internacional de Trabajadores sociales

Message to the New Zealand Social Workers Registration Board, 16 March 2021, WSWD

Kia ora tatou katoa,

At this momentous time, when the title of 'social work' is now protected across the nation, IFSW sends you our warmest congratulations. We are aware of how many have worked together through webs of complexity to arrive at this point. There have been many conversations in marae, communities, government departments, and of course, in many social work offices dating back to the time of Puaote-Ata-tu in 1988. These voices have now realised a common vision for a strong, healthy social work workforce: A workforce equipped with the skills, wisdom and abilities to meaningfully work with people, families, whanau, hapu, Iwi and communities and support their aspirations to stand strong and confidently in their own cultural foundations.

The SWRB Scope of Practice articulates a vision of partnerships and shared-futures for social work. This vision is aligned to this year's highest-level global theme, and the theme for World Social Work Day: Ubuntu. Our colleagues from Africa teach us that at the heart of Ubuntu are the core values of life: love, empathy, dependability, social solidarity, commitment to caring relationships with others and peaceful co-existence that facilitates inclusive partnerships for community development. In their social work with communities, they reinforce the perspective of our 'neighbour's child as our own', and your 'child's success is our success too'. These concepts and the SWRB scope are at the heart of flourishing worldwide discussions that extend the understanding and identity of social work. We acknowledge your ongoing contributions to these global resources.

Internationally, the interface between social work regulatory boards and professional bodies is complex. Strengthening a commitment to maintaining healthy partnerships between registration bodies and professional associations is essential to enshrine new learnings into public safety and wellbeing. When the parties work together, it binds social work as a growing profession, by jointly evolving standards of practice and standards of education, encouraging each new generation to participate and respond to new global challenges as they arise. We are, therefore, delighted to see a blend of SWRB board members and the two professional bodies as well as wider community members working together on various initiatives.

Again on behalf of IFSW we send you - the social work leaders that have nurtured this, the Members of Parliament who have prioritised the wellbeing of children and the public, and all the communities that have contributed to mandatory registration - our heartfelt congratulations as well as our appreciation for your openness to sharing your knowledge with the global profession.

Ngā mihi,

Rose Henderson IFSW Vice-President & Asia Pacific Regional President

Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary-General