

## Registration of social work profession to be a highlight at upcoming conference in Adelaide

The theme of Australian Association of Social Work Conference 2019 is Challenging Inequality: Working together for a just society. It will be held in Adelaide on 7-9 November.

It is an opportunity showcase the vital work that is being done by social workers across Australia and in diverse and challenging areas, including family violence, child protection, mental health, climate change, aged care and welfare.

The role of social workers and the professional challenges of the future will be a feature of the extensive program, and will include discussion panel on the Social Workers Registration Bill, which is before a joint committee in South Australia. The panel will feature Tammy Franks MLC, who introduced the private member's bill to the South Australian Parliament, Nat Cook MP, Shadow Minister for Human Services and Lucy Sandford-Reed, the Chief Executive of Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers.

AASW CEO Cindy Smith said, "Holding this conference in Adelaide this year is very timely with the South Australian Parliament currently considering the regulation of the social work profession. And South Australia has an important history in challenging inequality, as it was the first jurisdiction in the world where women were able to be elected to public office.

"It is our pleasure to showcase Adelaide to the rest of the country and the world, with delegates from interstate and internationally attending the conference.

"This conference is an opportunity for social workers and other professionals to network, learn about emerging trends, innovative practice and to celebrate our achievements across a range of sectors."

Ms Smith said that there has never been a more important time to challenge inequality.

"Inequality is affecting us like never before. Whether it is climate change, gender inequality and family violence, or the effects of poverty and housing stress, it is essential to keep up-to-date with the current professional challenges," she said.

"Let's work together and find solutions, hone our skills and knowledge as professionals and most importantly, take the time to reflect on and celebrate the life-changing work that we do and our contribution to society."

The conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, between 7-9 November 2019.

### **Contacts**

Angela Yin  
03 9320 1005  
mailto: media@asw.asn.au