

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

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

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

### **Electronic Newsletter February 2013**

Editor: Marion Huxtable

## **School Social Work in Four Continents**

### **School social work in Australia**

Overall, school social work services in Australia (estimated 2013 population 22,909,735) are still sparse, with only 150 school social workers. Where staffing levels permit, a full range of services is offered by qualified social workers with a four year BSW or 2 year post-graduate BSW and eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Work <http://www.aasw.asn.au>.

Of the six Australian states, Victoria has the largest contingent of school social workers, and here they have developed their own School Social Work Practice Group as part of the AASW. One of the Practice Group's projects was developing the Practice Standards for School Social Workers.

This document, <http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/814>, provides detailed information about school social work practice and valuable indicators of how school social work objectives are met. Specific objectives and comprehensive outcome indicators are given for six areas of practice: direct practice, management of the service, organizational development and systems change, policy, research and professional development.

*Information provided by Chris Barrett, [barrett.chris.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:barrett.chris.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)*



### **School social work in Singapore**

School social work services are provided in Singapore (population 5,312,400) by a variety of Voluntary Welfare Organizations working under contract to schools. A School Social Work Chapter of the Singapore Association of Social Workers <http://www.sasw.org.sg>, chaired by Dr. Wu Mei Ling ([SSW\\_Chairperson@sasw.org.sg](mailto:SSW_Chairperson@sasw.org.sg)), provides support, training, networking and advocacy.

A Guide to School Social Work published in 2007 by the National Council of Social Service ([http://www.ncss.gov.sg/documents/Guide\\_School\\_Social\\_Work\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ncss.gov.sg/documents/Guide_School_Social_Work_2007.pdf)) provides extensive information about the development of school social work in Singapore and how the

services are delivered. The Guide includes chapters on a wide variety of topics including the goals and objectives of school social work, ethics, roles and responsibilities and students with special needs.

Appendices include material that is especially useful to social workers working in agencies that provide services to schools, such as a sample contract between the school and the agency providing the service and a comprehensive list of activities for establishing a social work presence in a school.

“School social work in Singapore had its infancy in 1965 when Mrs Nalini Schooling undertook a school social work research project with Singapore Children’s Society. This was the pioneer project in school social work practice encompassing needs assessment, casework, action research and group work intervention. School social work in Singapore was officially established in the 1970s with Students Care Service (SCS) providing counselling, training and consultancy services directly to schools, students and their families.”

*Information provided by Wu Mei Ling, [wu\\_meiling@students.org.sg](mailto:wu_meiling@students.org.sg)*



## **School social work in Luxembourg**

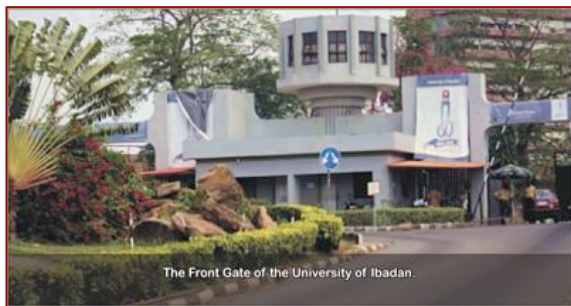
A tight-knit group of 34 school social workers has provided a full range of services since 2001. The service is provided by the *Centre de Psychologie et d’Orientation Scolaire* – the Center of Psychology and School Guidance, <http://www.cpos.public.lu/>, a unit of the Ministry of National Education. In a small country of 524,853 people the school social workers are able to meet monthly to plan their priorities, develop objectives, measure progress and report results to the schools and the Ministry of Education.

*Information from Christian Jacobs, [christian.jacobs@nosl.lu](mailto:christian.jacobs@nosl.lu)*



## **School social work in Nigeria**

The 2012 population estimate is 170,123,740. The Universities are offering courses to prepare social workers for work in schools. School social work has become established in the capital, Lagos, in recent years and is starting to be extended to other locations. The Department of Social Work at the University of Ibadan is continuing to place social work students in schools in Oyo State. The University of Nigeria Social Work Department at the Nsukka campus also offers a course in school social work.



*Information from Dr. James Ayangunna, Department of Social Work, University of Ibadan, [ja.ayangunna@mail.ui.edu.ng](mailto:ja.ayangunna@mail.ui.edu.ng)*