



SOCIAL WORK REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE OF OCEANIA

Update to the International Association of Schools of Social Work Capacity Building Committee January 2019

Background

We are pleased to provide an update on the activities of the Social Work Regional Resource Centre of Oceania (SWRROC). The Centre was launched in March 2017 as the Pacific Regional Resource Centre (PRRC). However, a name change to SWRROC occurred in May 2018, as another organisation in the region was found to have the same name as our original name. This report builds on the previous report submitted to IASSW in April 2018.

SWRROC has a particular focus on capacity building for social work education in the Pacific (covering Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia). It is facilitated via a collaboration amongst five schools of social work in the Pacific region: Massey University (New Zealand), Whitireia New Zealand (a polytechnic), Te Wananga o Aotearoa (an Indigenous tertiary education provider), University of Wollongong, and the University of the South Pacific (Fiji plus 12 member countries of the Pacific).

The specific aims of SWRROC are to:

- i. Develop and promote excellence in Pacific social work education, research and scholarship;
- ii. Create and maintain a dynamic community of Pacific social work educators and extend the opportunities and uptake of postgraduate qualifications and research in Pacific social work;
- iii. Support and facilitate participation in mutual exchange of information and expertise on indigenous Pacific social work; and
- iv. Enhance the contribution of Pacific voices in international social work forums.

Overview of activities

SWRROC Logo

A logo (featured at the top of this report) was designed for the new name. The design was developed by graphic artist Jade Ormsby at Te Wananga of Aotearoa, one of the social work education providers which is a part of SWRROC. The concept takes inspiration from the kaitiaki (guardian) aspect of social work, with hands nurturing the ocean/waves in addition to implying the earth.

Communications

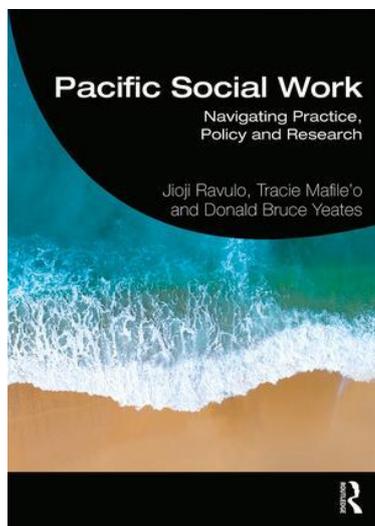
The SWRROC facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pacificsocialwork/> is a means to share updates and resources related to Pacific social work and social development in the region – there are currently 253 followers. The facebook page is also linked to a twitter feed with hashtag #pacificsocialwork. A webpage has also been developed

and can be found at http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-health/school-health-social-services/social-work-oceania/social-work-oceania_home.cfm .

Governance

The Terms of Reference for the SWRROC Committee were adopted and are attached.

Pacific Social Work Book



SWRROC collaborators have contributed to an edited collection which includes just over 30 Pacific social work educators and practitioners as contributors. *Pacific social Work: Navigating Practice, Policy and Research* will be used as a learning resource for social work education across the region. More details can be found at <https://www.routledge.com/Pacific-Social-Work-Navigating-Practice-Policy-and-Research-1st-Edition/Ravulo-Mafileo-Bruce-Yeates/p/book/9781138501317> . The manuscript has been submitted to the publishers is currently in the copy editing stage. It is expected the book will be released in the first half of 2019.

Tracie Mafile'o is also co-editing a special issue of the journal *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work*, called *Tu Mau*, which has a focus on Pacific social work. Most of the SWRROC member institutions also have authors contributing articles to this special issue. The Special Issue will also be released in early 2019.

Funding for Annotated Bibliography

Funding has been received from the Health Research Council of New Zealand for a Summer Studentship, being supervised by members of the SWRROC Committee. A Masters of Applied Social Work student, Mr Fati Tapu, was successful in receiving the funding to compile an annotated bibliography on Pacific social work which will be added to the SWRROC website as a resource.

Conference Presentation

SWRROC presented at the Oceans and Islands Conference hosted by the New Zealand Institute of Pacific Research, held in Auckland, New Zealand in 29-30 November 2018 (see <http://nzipr2018.nz/>). The paper was entitled "Where in the world is Pacific social work at? Towards a region-wide study" and it critically reflected on the definitional and conceptual challenges associated with a "Pacific" region focused study of social work and how the challenges are being worked with in planning processes.

Networking

The world social work conference in Dublin, Ireland July 2018, provided an opportunity for two members, Dr Tracie Mafileo and Associate Professor Jioji Ravulo to meet with Dr Darla Coffey of IASSW Capacity Building Committee, along with Dr Hok Bun KU of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University who is also a board member of the China RRC. We appreciated the opportunity to meet face to face and gain insight into the China RRC approach and activities. We hope to visit the Centre later in 2019 as part of other conference travel we may undertake.

Other networking and exchanges have occurred as highlighted below:

- Dr Tracie Mafile'o, Massey University, visited the University of Papua New Guinea social work team in September 2018 to talk about SWRROC, social work education activities in the region, possibilities for collaborations
- Assoc Prof Kieran O'Donoghue, Head of School of Social Work at Massey University, visited the University of the South Pacific (Fiji) in November 2018, providing supervision training with field educators
- Dr Litea Meo-Sewabu, University of the South Pacific, visited School of Social Work, Massey University, to arrange a team visit in January 2019

Future exchanges are being planned for 2019.

With thanks

We thank the IASSW Capacity Building Committee for the support to date and we look forward to sharing more in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracie Mafileo'.

Dr Tracie Mafileo (SWRROC Coordinator)

13th January 2019

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