



## **PROFESSION SPECIFIC SKILLS - SOCIAL WORKER**

### **Purpose:**

To empower individual clients, whanau and client groups in order to improve psycho-social functioning.

This includes:

- Enhancement of problem solving and coping capacities
- Linking people with resources, services and opportunities
- Planned collaborative work with consumers, carers, statutory and non statutory organisations
- Identifying gaps in service delivery and advocacy for appropriate service intervention

### **Specific Skills:**

Knowledge of:

- Mental Health Welfare and justice legislation, policy programmes and the broad networks of services for clients, families, whanau and significant others.
- DSMIV diagnostic framework
- Current treatment approaches, including individual approaches such as cognitive behavioural therapy; group approaches including support and education and therapy groups; and family work
- Disability and its implications
- Multidisciplinary functions, including the roles of other disciplines
- Principles of the community development
- Refugee resettlement

### **Specific Assessment:**

Assessments for individuals, families, whanau and significant others where there are:

- Complex psychosocial needs
- Where other agencies both statutory and non-statutory are involved in care
- Where there are care and protection issues
- Where there are issues of protection of personal and property rights
- Significant relationship problems of family discord
- Identifying cultural differences in relation to psychiatric presentation

### **Specific Treatments:**

Counselling, education and therapy to assist with health, emotional, behavioural or social difficulties.

This can be individual, group or family counselling

- Advocacy and brokerage to gain appropriate resources, including income, accommodation, work and leisure opportunities
- Linking clients to community organisations and networks
- Acting as a resource to other team members in respect to the above treatments
- Co-ordinate care provided by different services such as Health Welfare or co-ordinate between specialist health services.
- Linking with cultural advisors and interpreters.

### **Community Development and Organisation**

- Assist existing NGO with supervision and training.
- Assist communities to establish non-existent community resources.