Career Options: Social Work

As field education is an important component of the social work program, it gives you the opportunity to integrate academic knowledge and skills with practical experience in group work, interpersonal helping, community work, social action, assessment and casework, research and evaluation and social policy analysis. You will become highly proficient in all core areas of social work and develop critical thinking skills grounded in the values and ethics of the profession-promoting social justice, diversity, equity and a commitment to the rights and needs of the people with whom you work.

The program produces graduates who are ethical and innovative thinkers, effective communicators, problem solvers, change facilitators and leaders.

It prepares you for a wide range of social work roles including working with individuals, groups and families; community work; advocacy, research, planning and policy development; and management and administration. You could also work in child protection, youth work, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, child and family welfare, youth and adult offending, hospital and community health settings, employment and income support and aged care.

Other career options include community development, family support, foster care services, disability services, policy and research, services for women, multicultural services and many other social welfare organisations.

In addition to knowledge and skills directly related to your program of study, you will also develop a range of other skills (e.g. teamwork, analytical, communication) through academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and life experience. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

Occupations and industries

Social Work graduates are employed in a wide range of occupations and industries including:

- Aged Care Services
- Community Services
- Disability Services and Programs
- Family and Child Welfare
- Hospitals
- Policy Development and Research
- Teaching
- Juvenile Justice
- Children's services
- Correctional Services
- Employment Centres
- Family Support
- Mental Health Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Welfare & Community Planning
- Youth Work

Key employers include:

- **Qld Health**, the largest local employer of social workers. Opportunities are not limited to public hospitals and include mental health and community health jobs as well as in a variety of other areas.
- **Department of Education and Training - schools**
• Department of Community Safety
• Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
• Centrelink
• Department of Human Services is a large employer of social workers.

Note: Private hospitals do not routinely employ social workers.

Positions and employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, Graduate Opportunities, lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of graduate positions and employers include:

- Homelessness Services Coordinator: On Track Community Programs
- Social Worker: Queensland Health
- Housing and Family Support Worker: Booval Community Service
- Senior Community Child Protection Worker: Department for Child Protection- WA
- Community Support Worker: Mission Australia
- Child Safety Officer: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Family Counsellor: Family Court
- Senior Practitioner Sexual Assault: Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre
- Intake and assessment officer: Acacia ridge community support inc.
- Assessment and Intake Officer: Ozcare
- Case Manager: Australian Red Cross
- Homelessness Services Manager: West Coast Youth and Community Support
- Outreach Support Worker: Penrith Domestic Violence Services
- Homelessness Case Manager: Centre-care Townsville
- Mental Health Social worker: NSW Health
- Youth worker: Life Without Barriers
- Social worker: Department of Education and Child Development
- Social Worker: Hunter New England Health- John Hunter Hospital
- Senior Complaints Officer: Commission for Children & Young People and the Child Guardian
- Youth Connection Team Leader: Catholic Care Canberra And Gouldburn
- Residential Youth Worker: Life Without Barriers
- Senior Practice Development Officer: Department For Child Protection and Family Support
- Engagement And Referral Officer: Act 4 Kids
- Case Coordinator: Footprints in Brisbane

Vacancies on-line

Australia

- CareCareers
- CareerJet social care vacancies
- CareerOne social work vacancies
- Adzuna social work vacancies
- JobSeeker social care vacancies
- Seek social work vacancies
- Indeed Social Welfare jobs
- ABRS SocialWorks
- Health and Community Jobs (HACjobs)
- Horizon Career Centre
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association jobs
- New South Wales Government jobs
- ProCare Personnel
- Qld Council of Social Services jobs
- Council of Social Service of New South Wales (NCOSS) jobs board
- ProBono Australia (Skilled professionals voluntary positions in not for profit organisations)
- Human Services (Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support, CRS and Hearing Australia)
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Queensland Health
- Australian Defence Force Recruiting
- Australian Job Search
- Australian Public Service recruitment
- Brisbane City Council vacancies
- Graduate Opportunities (the major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia)
- New South Wales Government jobs
- Queensland Government Jobs
- Research Jobs (vacancies in Australia and New Zealand)
- Unijobs (Vacancies of all types in Australian universities)

### International

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Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer’s needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these ‘hidden’ opportunities.

- Aged care facilities in Australia
- Anti-discrimination and human rights agencies in Australia and overseas
- Australian Council of Social Services members
- Australian Courts and Tribunals
- Australian Government departments and agencies
- Lifeline service finder
- Community Legal Centres in Australia
- Child safety service centres in Queensland
- Disability support agencies in Australia (NDS directory)
- Disability support agencies in Australia
- Drug and alcohol services in Australia
- Housing support agencies in Australia
- International health organisations
- Job Network employment agencies
- Local Governments in Australia
- Multicultural organisations in Australia
- Not for Profit organisations in Australia
- Public Hospitals in Australia
- Queensland Government Departments
- Queensland schools
- Rehabilitation support service providers in Australia
- Trade unions in Australia

Professional associations

- Australian Association of Social Workers

Other useful links

- Careers in social work
- Careers in public policy and public management
- Careers in social science research
- Careers in sociology
Sample job advertisements

The Department of Communities and Disability Services Queensland are seeking recent university graduates for our Graduate Development Program. The extensive professional development program will give you the skills to progress in our diverse agency.

Throughout the 12-month program, graduates will participate in a number of set core training courses as well as individually nominated courses based on a personal achievement plan.

Further support is provided through the establishment of mentoring relationships with senior staff and peer support through regular graduate meetings, to assist in consolidating learnings and adapting to public sector employment.

On completion of the 12-month development program, participants will have the skills to undertake higher levels of responsibility in our diverse organisation.

We are seeking graduates from a range of disciplines including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language pathology, social and behavioural sciences, psychology, social work, business, human resources, marketing, communications, economics, information technology, built environment, urban development, law, criminology, education and science.

We have offices seeking graduates in locations across Queensland, some of which include: Brisbane, Logan, Cleveland, Goodna, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Ipswich, Maryborough, Cairns, Rockhampton, Townsville and Mackay.

Lifeline Community Care QLD (LCCQ) has exciting opportunities for a Family Relationship Advisor to join their dynamic and dedicated team at the Logan Family Relationship Centre.

Reporting to the FRC Manager, this role aims to provide initial support to families and carry out initial intakes/assessments. You will also offer appropriate information and resources and give referrals when applicable.

To be suitable for this key position it is essential that you hold a degree in Social Science and/or Psychology with membership, or are eligible for membership of a relevant professional association. LCCQ will provide training and support to upgrade your qualifications to conform with regulations under the Family Law Act and Attorney Generals Department.

Enjoy the amazing and unique opportunity to establish or further your career within the parameters of the Family Law legislative changes, with the job security of a Government funded position. As a highly professional organisation that values its staff as the primary component of their business, LCCQ will ensure your career development continues to progress, with opportunities to advance within the organisation.

In return for your hard work and dedication, you will enjoy a competitive remuneration package based on Level 6-7 of the LCCQ Union Collective Agreement, negotiable based on qualifications and experience. LCCQ also offers generous salary packaging to maximise your take home pay.

This position offers an extremely high level of job satisfaction as you are given the opportunity to make a positive difference to conflicted families in the community. You will be joining a dynamic, enthusiastic team within this highly varied role, where you will have the opportunity to display your leadership and people management skills.

In addition, LCCQ offers its employees professional supervision, ensuring they are provided with the best possible working conditions.
Child and Youth Mental Health Practitioner, Queensland Health (Clinical Nurse or Psychologist or Occupational Therapist or Social Worker)

Moranbah Community Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Service, Moranbah Hospital

The ideal applicant will be someone who can demonstrate the following:

Clinical Skills
• Demonstrates a base level to experienced level of knowledge, expertise and skill in the respective discipline relevant to child and youth mental health
• Demonstrates ability to apply established principles to the provision of child and youth mental health assessment and intervention clinical services.

Professional Commitment
• Demonstrates personal and professional accountability and adherence to the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service
• Is committed to fostering the reputation and meeting organisational goals of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service.

Purpose
• Work within a multidisciplinary team to provide mental health case-management services to clients with a chronic and/or severe mental illness. Case-management will include assessment, intervention and treatment as well as group work as required, in accordance with professional standards and legislation (Mental Health ACT 2000; State and National plans and polices).
• Work collaboratively with consumers and multidisciplinary professionals to provide clinical care to child and youth consumers and a therapeutic environment conducive to the dignity and well-being of consumers and carers within the Integrated Mental Health Service (IMHS).
• Provide discipline specific services and consultation as required within the team and the service.

The Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland was formed 60 years ago and is now Queensland’s largest, non-government physical disability services provider.

The League spends approximately $60 million a year to provide services that assist people with cerebral palsy and related disabilities to reach their education, employment, independent living and community participation goals.

The resources to do this are obtained through fundraising activities, community support and some government assistance.

About the Opportunity - The Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland currently has a fantastic opportunity for a full-time Social Worker to join their team in Townsville. Reporting to the Regional Manager, the main aim of this position will be to provide a social work service as part of a team to children with a disability and their families.

The ideal candidate will be non-judgmental and able to work effectively with people who have a broad range of personality types and diverse cultural backgrounds. A broad vision in regard to service delivery, an ability to understand the affected parties and their needs and an ability to operate in a team and autonomously are also required.

Experience would be highly regarded but graduates are also welcome to apply for this role. The Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland promotes a friendly atmosphere with a supportive team culture.

Generous benefits include opportunities to salary package and a generous six weeks of paid leave per annum (comprising of four weeks annual leave and two weeks ex-gratia leave). This is your chance to join a high-profile, not-for-profit organisation that provides genuine opportunities for career progression.

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Careers and Employment Service, Griffith University