

CITATION TO SUPPORT NOMINATION OF  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP  
To  
CHRISTINE MENZIES



Christine began her foray into social work in 1978, when she was appointed as a Matron's Assistant at the Boys' Home in Dunedin. In 1979 she transferred to Invercargill as a Social Worker, employed by the then Department of Social Welfare. She worked at Social Welfare until 1981.

After having a period of time away from social work, and undertaking further study to become a lawyer, Christine returned to social work in 1992, when she was employed by Southern Health, working in the Aged Care sector. In conjunction with her employment, Christine also studied extramurally and gained her Diploma in Social Work in 1995.

Since her return to social work, Christine has had several jobs, all within social work. Her roles have varied over the years, as has her client base. Whilst work during the 90's was primarily with aged Care, it would be fair to state Christine's focus into the new Millennium has been child-focussed.

Initially Co-Ordinator and Social Worker in the Child Development Service, Christine became Practice Leader in the Southland office of Child, Youth and Family in 2001. Whilst this was a new role for Christine, her previous social work experience and her role as a member of the Invercargill Care and Protection Resource Panel meant she was well prepared and she quickly became an important addition to the staff of Child, Youth and Family.

One of the key tasks for Christine as Practice Leader was to inform and ensure best practice for the Invercargill Child, Youth and Family social work staff. Christine has been an excellent mentor and advocate for best practice. Her calm approach to matters and her ability to clearly outline her point of view, whilst having a willingness to listen and accept others viewpoints have been hallmarks of her work ethic and principles.

Judy Larking, Operations Manager Otago Southland, Child, Youth and Family, states Christine has demonstrated a commitment to professional development, including meeting her ANZASW responsibilities alongside her Child, Youth and Family commitments. In addition, Judy states Christine also demonstrated an absolute commitment to providing the best possibly service to clients and staff members.

Since March 2008, Christine has undertaken a new position as Southland Area Manager of Special Education. While Christine has transitioned to Managerial positions, she has still retained her commitment to social work principles and practice.

After becoming a member of ANZASW in 1996, Christine has led by example and been an active Southland Branch member. Further, she increased her responsibilities and commitment to social work by undertaking an executive member role in 2000.

Over the last eight years, while still working full time, raising a family, undertaking further tertiary study and being a member of other community committees, Christine has also had a number of key roles at the Executive level, including Secretary and Treasurer, and is currently Chairperson of the Tikanga Committee.

Therefore, we, the Southland Branch of ANZASW, have nominated Christine for Life Membership to ANZASW. It is our considered opinion Christine merits Life Membership to ANZASW, not for the number of years she has been a Social Worker, nor for the years she has been an active member of the Southland Branch of ANZASW, but because she has shown an absolute commitment to social work, its principles, and through her actions, has provided examples of professionalism for her peers.

Jonelle Galbreath  
Chairperson, Southland Branch of Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers  
MANZASW

27 November 2008