

October 2010

Information for the Board of Governance on Rose Henderson.

Recommendation to receive life membership

Rose Henderson's commitment to social work has included the following:

Her career has spanned statutory, voluntary, health and NGO as well as fieldwork education and supervision.

Rose's social work career started in Invercargill – excellent grounding in professional ethics and standards, collegial support and on the job training. Although geographically isolated, and limited opportunities for professional and career development in some respects, in others Southland provided a wealth of very 'sound' experienced colleagues for supervision and support. This 'grounding' of professional roots in Southland will always remain hugely important to Rose personally and professionally.

1979 Commenced Social work career in a generic DSW statutory role in the Invercargill office.

Rose was out of the paid workforce whilst she had her family of 4 during the 1980s, during this time Rose was actively involved in the NGO sector in particular through establishing the Women's refuge and co-coordinating it in a voluntary capacity as a feminist collective.

In 1991, Rose returned to paid work as a social worker in mental health and womens health. Rose linked with ANZASW soon after recognizing the value and importance of professional identity and accountability and enjoyed the supportive camaraderie and professional development opportunities this provided.

In 1993 Rose completed the competency assessment with John Dunlop as her assessor to become a full member of the association, recalling this not only as anxiety provoking but also undoubtedly as one of the highlights of her professional career. Rose recalls how affirming and supportive the face to face peer review process was for a practitioner largely working in isolation – as most social workers are in reality. One of the major disappointments for Rose has been the registration board decision of recent times which has severely compromised the true value of this dimension of our competency programme.

Rose completed her formal qualifications 1998 in both social work and Maori from Otago University.

In 2004 Rose completed post graduate diploma in social welfare withdrawing from completing her masters because of the time demands being involved in the ANZASW national body posed.

During 1998 the Henderson family relocated to Christchurch and Rose secured work at the Lyndhurst Day hospital enabling her to further develop her career in womens health, a longstanding passion she held. One of the first things she did after working out how to travel around her new environment was to link with the local branch of ANZASW so that she could connect with her professional family and engage

with the local core group. As a 'newbie' to the area, Rose found the professional links and friendships through this forum have been and continue to be invaluable.

In 2000 Rose moved to full time work in mental health where she remains today having worked as a case manager, clinical co-ordinator and now professional leader for the combined allied health professions in mental health.

Throughout her career she has been a strong advocate of continuing professional development and has during her many years in front line work, supervised numerous social work students from several tertiary institutions. For several years she co-ordinated fieldwork placements for the Otago programme. Rose remains committed to supporting social work continuing education and workforce development.

In 2002 – Rose was elected to the then National Executive of ANZASW as the National secretary. At that time the national secretary was responsible for typing the minutes of the national meetings so at those meetings was extremely busy!

In 2003 she was elected as National President at the same time as many notable ANZASW members were appointed to the inaugural SWRB. The following 2 years was extremely busy as both bodies adapted to the changed environment. Rose acknowledges the huge amount of work both the inaugural SWRB board undertook to put the flesh and bones onto the framework of the Act and also the ANZASW National Executive and staff undertook to position the association to respond to the changing needs of the new environment. Both bodies at that time valued the respective roles of the two bodies and worked hard to provide a complimentary rather than competitive relationship. More recently this has not been somewhat more challenging.

In the following years the Association reviewed its Complaints process and made numerous incremental changes to the Competency assessment processes as it positioned itself to be able to meet the increasing and changing demands of the significant increase in membership following the initial implementation of registration. A major organizational restructuring saw the National Executive change to a Governance Board and continuing evolutionary changes in the governance – management split. The Tangata Whenua Takawaenga o Aotearoa has always been a unique and very special part of ANZASW and it has been pleasing to see the positive developments as a result of the strengthening of the bicultural partnership at the Governance level. It was a huge privilege to be invited to attend and address the Caucus at their 2009 Hui.

During her 6 years as president (the longest serving time of president in the history of ANZASW) she has represented the ANZASW at various national forums and at the IFSW international meetings and events. Highlights have included being a speaker at the Australian and Japanese conferences and hosting the Asia Pacific Regional conference in 2009.

Rose is quick to state that none of the achievements or developments over the past eight years has been a 'one man band' and pays tributes to the teams of people working both as Governance bodies as well as the small committed staff teams. Whilst there has been much blood sweat and tears there has also been much fun, fellowship and friendship over the years. Rose remains a strong advocate of the

value of a strong professional body, the identity and independent voice of the profession of social work and looks forward to the developments of the next decade.

The service Rose has done to the social work profession is outstanding. The Canterbury Core group believes she is an outstanding recipient for a life membership nomination.

Paula Grooby

Secretary



Merv Hancock & Rose Henderson
November 2010