

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE



## WHAT IS A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER?

School Social Workers are qualified to assist individuals to manage their attitudes, behaviour and situations. School Social Workers provide a safe place where parents, teachers and children can be supported in making positive decisions.

School Social Workers will:

- HELP to identify, assess and to resolve social and emotional difficulties that may impact on or interfere with school life
- HELP children to gain the most from their educational opportunities
- HELP parents to better understand themselves and their children
- HELP school staff to develop and foster their relationships with their colleagues and with their pupils
- HELP parents to strengthen their parenting skills
- HELP children to cope with life's challenges
- HELP parents to cope with life's challenges

## REFERRALS

Should you or your child require the support of the Social Worker you can contact the Social Worker directly at [alison.fisher@cewa.edu.au](mailto:alison.fisher@cewa.edu.au). The social worker is available on a Monday and Tuesday a PCPS.

Should a member of staff feel that the SW may be able to assist you or your child with an individual and potentially ongoing issue a referral to the SW will be discussed with you and your consent will be obtained.

As with any member of staff, the Social Worker will be required to support all children in managing their day to day life at school. For example, they may assist children with playground, friendship and emotional regulation challenges. These interactions are likely to be sporadic in nature. Parental consent will not be obtained. If ongoing and/or more individualised intervention is required parental consent will be sought.

As a member of staff, the School Social Worker may also be required to work with small groups of children or whole class groups to address social and emotional issues. For example, assisting a group of girls to manage

their friendship issues. Parental consent will not be obtained as the Social Worker will be performing the duties expected of any member of staff.

## WHAT DOES A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER DO?

Social Workers can work with children, parents or staff - individually, in couples, as a family, in a group or in the classroom environment.

School Social Workers can:

- Offer individual counselling to students and families for issues ranging from peer pressure, self-esteem, loss and grief, social skills, parenting challenges and other issues that may arise.
- Work with groups of students, i.e. those at educational risk, those who may lack social skills, have difficulty managing their behaviour and emotions etc.
- Work with teachers to develop and run classroom programmes in the areas of social skills, resiliency building, conflict resolution, transition into high school and behaviour management programmes.
- Act as a sounding board and information source for school staff who want to talk over an issue they have with a student, parent or with class dynamics and support staff to develop and foster their relationships with their colleagues, parents and with their students.
- Assist in developing school policies in the areas of crisis management, behaviour management and child protection.
- Provide parents with information that will strengthen their parenting skills and relationship with their children.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Social workers are bound by the Australian Association of Social Workers requirement of confidentiality. For this reason, unless parental permission is obtained the Social Worker is unable to discuss details of sessions with children, except with the Principal and/or Assistant Principals. In cases where it is in the child's best interests, the Social Worker will seek permission from parents to discuss their child with the class teacher, in terms of how the class teacher can support and assist the child in their class/daily activities.