



ANZASW Supervision Policy

Standard

1. This policy defines the requirements of Professional Social Work Supervision arrangements, for practising members of the Association, to meet standard 8 of the ANZASW practice standards.

Scope

2. All practising members of the Association including provisional members, members in training, full members and life members.

Informing Documents and Sources of Feedback

- ANZASW Competency Handbook 2008.
- ANZASW Code of Ethics 2013.
- Previous policy and BOC Statement.
- ANZASW Supervisors Interest Group.
- SWRB Statement on Supervision.
- Tony Morrison (1993) *Staff Supervision in Social Care*, Longman, Harlow.

Policy

3. Definition of Professional Social Work Supervision:

- 3.1. Supervision is a process in which the supervisor; enables, guides and facilitates the social worker(s) in meeting certain organisational, professional and personal objectives. These objectives are: professional competence, accountable & safe practice, continuing professional development, education and support.

4. Principles of Supervision

- 4.1. Supervision in Aotearoa New Zealand is conducted in accordance with the articles contained in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 4.2. All practising social workers are required to participate in regular supervision.
- 4.3. The best interest of the tangata whaiora/client must always come first except where there are threats to property or the safety of people.

- 4.4. Supervision is mandated by agency policy. Any agency employing social workers is expected to provide and encourage supervision through internal or external sources.
- 4.5. Supervision recognises cultural and ethnic diversity and is cognisant of specific tangata whaiora/client needs.
- 4.6. Supervision ensures safety for participants.
- 4.7. Supervision is a shared responsibility between the supervisee, the supervisor, and the agency.
- 4.8. Supervision is based on a negotiated written agreement, which has provision for conflict resolution.
- 4.9. Supervision is regular and uninterrupted.
- 4.10. Supervision promotes competent, safe, accountable, and empowered practice.
- 4.11. Supervision promotes anti-discriminatory practice.
- 4.12. Supervision is based on an understanding of how adults learn.
- 4.13. Supervision provides for appropriate consultation when needed in regard to issues related to specialist knowledge, gender, culture, sexual orientation and identity, disability, religion, or age.

5. Purposes of Supervision

- 5.1. To provide a positive environment within which social work practice can be reflected upon, reviewed and developed.
- 5.2. To ensure the worker is clear about roles and responsibilities.
- 5.3. To ensure the worker's practice meets the ANZASW Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, and relevant legislation.
- 5.4. To encourage quality of service for tangata whaiora/clients.
- 5.5. To encourage professional development and provide support.
- 5.6. To identify and relate social work theories and models to practice.
- 5.7. To assist in identifying and managing stress and building resilience.
- 5.8. To consider the resources the worker has available to do their job and discuss any required courses of action when there are concerns.

6. Core Social Work Supervision

- 6.1. Core Social Work Supervision is that element of supervision that ensures the worker's practice demonstrates a commitment to the social work profession together with the ANZASW Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics and the international standards of IFSW.
- 6.2. All practising ANZASW members are required to be receiving core social work supervision with a supervisor who meets the criteria set out in clause 10.
- 6.3. In some situations members may have additional needs that require them to have other elements of their supervision provided by different supervisors. For example where the agency supervisor is not an ANZASW member or the member's field of practice requires specialist supervision. There may also be

cultural factors or specific learning areas. In these situations members will engage in more than one supervisory arrangement. It is the combination of these arrangements for supervision that constitute the member's portfolio of supervision.

7. Forms of Supervision

- 7.1. Individual supervision contracted internally within the agency.
- 7.2. Individual external supervision contracted by the agency or the worker.
- 7.3. Peer supervision contracted by the agency or the worker.
- 7.4. Supervisor led group supervision contracted by the agency or the worker.
- 7.5. A combination of these forms.
(see practice note 1. 'virtual' supervision)

8. Frequency of Supervision

- 8.1. To meet the supervision standards of competency, all ANZASW members in practise are required to be engaged in core social work supervision for at least one hour per month. It is anticipated that most members will have additional requirements for supervision.
- 8.2. In the first year of practise ANZASW members are required to have a minimum of one-hour core social work supervision per week.
- 8.3. The frequency of supervision may be varied on a proportional basis for part-time workers, but must not be less than one hour per month.

9. ANZASW expectations of a Supervisee

Supervisees must:

- 9.1. Adhere to the ANZASW Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.
- 9.2. Commit to core social work supervision in one of the forms defined in clause 7.
- 9.3. Participate actively in the supervisory process to ensure supervision meets the purposes outlined in this policy.
- 9.4. Inform the supervisor(s) of any ethical or safety issues that arise in practice.

10. ANZASW expectations of a Supervisor

Supervisors must:

- 10.1. Use the ANZASW Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice as the framework for supervision of social workers;
- 10.2. Have a current APC if they are a registered social worker with the SWRB;
- 10.3. When the supervisor is not a social worker but is a member of a regulated profession they must hold a current APC;
- 10.4. Communicate with employers or other appropriate authorities when they are aware of ongoing or serious unsafe practise.

- 10.5. Unless there is very good reason not to, it is expected that supervisors will:
- 10.5.1 Be currently receiving supervision from a social worker;
 - 10.5.2 Have at least two years supervised practice as a social worker;
 - 10.5.3 Be a full member of ANZASW with a current competency certificate;
 - 10.5.4 Have completed training in social work supervision and hold a recognised qualification in supervision.

11. Non-Social Work Supervision

- 11.1. When supervision is received from a professional other than a social worker the member will:
- 11.1.1. Describe the very good reason for accessing non-social work supervision and
 - 11.1.2. Demonstrate how they maintain their:
 - 11.1.2.1. professional identity as a social worker and
 - 11.1.2.2. links with the social work community.

12. Competence Assessment

- 12.1. To meet the requirements relating to supervision of the ANZASW competence assessment, ANZASW members must provide:
- 12.1.1. A reference completed by a Supervisor who meets the ANZASW expectations of a Supervisor set out in clause 10. (see practice note 2 where the supervisory relationship is newly established).
 - 12.1.2. The supervisor verifies that there is a written supervision contract in place when completing their reference for the candidate
- 12.2. Members whose primary role is in providing supervision are encouraged to be assessed against the Supervisor Practice Standards for the purposes of their competence assessment and recertification.

13. Outcomes

- 13.1. All Social Workers will participate in regular core social work supervision that supports their professional practice and development.
- 13.2. Social work supervision will work to ensure accountability of social workers and protect client(s) safety.
- 13.3. The ANZASW Supervision Policy will set the standard for social work supervision for the profession.

ANZASW Supervision Practice Notes

1. 'Virtual' Supervision (relates to clause 7 Forms of supervision)

This practice note refers to any supervision arrangements that occur when supervisors and supervisee(s) are in separate or remote locations and utilise electronic means to communicate, such as email, fax, telephone, voicemail, video conferences, web messages and instant messages.

Confidentiality:

Supervisors and Supervisees shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the privacy of electronic communications, for example by using passwords, encryption, secure sites, the installation of antivirus software and regular back up of data.

Limitations:

Supervisors should provide clear and sufficient information about the limitations and risks of online supervision in order for supervisees to make informed choices about using this service.

Supervision contracts:

Supervisors should, when engaging in online supervision establish agreements with supervisees on the following:

- Online availability;
- Response time;
- Alternative contact methods;
- Relevant legal context in which the supervision takes place;
- Confidentiality is the responsibility of all parties to the contract.

2. Recent change in supervision arrangements (relates to clause 12.1.1)

Where a current supervisor is unable to provide a reference due to the supervision arrangement having only recently commenced the candidate will supply:

- a current supervision contract **and**
- A reference from a previous supervisor who has supervised the candidate within the last six months **or**
- a completed interim attestation form from the current supervisor, attesting to any current or pending issues which could affect the candidates competence to practice and any other concerns.
- The supervisor also commits to providing a full reference within six months, once a relationship is established.

The competency assessment will then proceed and if the member is found competent in all other regards a full certificate of competency will be issued.

Common times when this situation may arise are:

- a non-practising member returning to practice;
- a change in supervisor close to the time of assessment.

This practice note does not remove the requirement for a member to maintain adequate supervision. It enables registered social workers returning to work to gain competency and thus an APC within a realistic time frame and to practice within the Social Work Registration Act (SWRA).