

Training

To become a social worker you must complete a Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Applied Social Sciences or Bachelor of Social Practice. It takes three or four years.

Sixteen institutions offer these degrees. Those closest to Waikato include: Wintec (Hamilton), University of Waikato, University of Auckland University, Unitec (Auckland), Manukau Institute of Technology, To Ohomai Institute of Technology, Open Polytech and Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa.

Example of entry requirements at Wintec. Check further details on their website.

- NCEA L3 comprised of 60 credits at NCEA L3 or higher and 20 credits at NCEA L2 or higher, including: 14 credits in each of 3 approved subjects* at L3 or above.
- Literacy - 10 credits in English or Te Reo Māori at L2 or above, made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing
- Numeracy - 10 credits at L1 or above, made up of specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects, or 3 unit standards: 26623, 26626 and 26627.

**For a list of approved subjects go to nzqa.govt.nz and search for University Entrance.*

Personal Qualities

Social workers need to:

- communicate well
- be skilled at problem-solving
- be confident in stressful situations
- be compassionate, empathetic
- easily relate to people from various cultures and backgrounds
- be flexible
- have a can-do attitude
- be tolerant, non-judgemental



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

www.kiwihealthjobs.com

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.co.nz

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Social Worker



Social work involves

Social work can involve:

- care and protection of children
- people with mental health problems
- elderly people who have experienced abuse or neglect
- reducing anti-social behaviour
- people with drug or alcohol addiction
- people with disabilities
- crisis response
- domestic violence or abuse
- community development
- prisoner transition back into society
- resettling refugees
- fostering and adoption of children

In New Zealand we have ~6,600 social workers. Social workers have increased in number due to more funding by the government for child care and protection. With an ageing population, more social workers to work with elderly people are likely to be needed. The possibility of getting a job as a social worker is good.

What do they do?

Social workers:

- help people from all age groups and cultures
- put people in touch with organisations that help with housing, food, transport and money problems
- help people with solving difficult issues
- inform people on their legal rights
- support people when there is a crisis
- give guidance on social problems
- uphold the law
- help people to find the best possible life outcomes
- assist people to take care of their own health and well-being

Where do social workers work?

Social workers are employed in government services, health services and community based organisations including:

- Hospitals
- Child, Youth and Family service
- Schools
- Marae
- Residential centres
- Courts
- Private health trusts and providers
- Prisons
- Migrant centres

