

## **Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices**

The following questions were taken on notice as a follow up from the attendance of Carol Dorgelo, President of Australian Association of Social workers (AASW) Tas Branch, at the hearing in Hobart, Tasmanian on 16 December 2011.

1. The number of social workers in Australia
2. The proportion that are members of AASW
3. The date that AASW was formed
4. The date of the first AASW Code Of Ethics

### **1. The number of social workers in Australia**

The AASW believe that there are an estimated 20,000 people with professional social work qualifications in Australia, and that many of them are working in many types of roles across the whole social services sector, ranging from management to front line social work, often with additional qualifications that sees them as members of other social sector professional bodies.

### **2. The proportion that are members of AASW**

As at December 2011 there are 6,500 financial members of AASW.

### **3. The date that AASW was formed**

The AASW was established at the national level in 1946. This information is set out in the Constitution of the AASW. The link below contains the Constitution document.

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/98>

### **Preamble**

*2. The Company (AASW) is the national professional representative body of social workers in Australia. It was established in 1946 at a national level, although a number of state associations had formed prior to this. Branches are located around the country and play a key role in fostering productive relations with members, the profession and others. The AASW was incorporated in 1989 as a single legal entity and is an organisation where members' volunteer contributions of assistance remain critical to meeting the objectives of the Company. It has practice standards and a code of ethics that contain a set of principles agreed to by all members. These principles guide all social work practice.*

### **4. The date of the first AASW Code Of Ethics**

When AASW was reviewing the Code of Ethics in 2010 there was difficulty in establishing the date of the first AASW Code of Ethics. The attached article (Martin, E 1966 'Code of Professional Ethics Federal Council Report', Australian Social Work, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 19 - 21) refers to a 1965 version of the Code of Ethics, but a hard copy has not yet been located. Given that the organisation began in 1946 AASW assumes there was a Code of Ethics prior to 1965, but unfortunately we've been unable to fill this historical gap as yet. We are continuing to pursue this matter in an attempt to complete the record.

Compiled by Carol Dorgelo from information provided by national office AASW. 21/12/11