

# SOCIAL WORK SCOPE OF PRACTICE

*“Awhinatia nga taonga tuku iho”*

*Ko Mana Motuhake te Moemoea  
Ko Mana Tangata te Kaupapa  
Ko Mana Atua te Ara Taumata  
Ko Mana Tipuna te Tikanga  
Ko Mana Whenua te Turanga  
Ko Manaakitanga te uara*

“Ma is the essence”, Mana is the intrinsic nature that all humanity walks with. Mana motuhake drives the direction, mana atua is the protective presence, mana tipuna is the pathway guided by the ancestors, mana whenua is the distinctive source of the pathway and mana tangata is the respectful relationship.



The core of social work is centred in manaakitanga.

Social workers see themselves in their work through their cultural lens and through the lens of their field of practice. This lens opens up the ability for social workers to connect with the narratives of their own paradigms. The Tangata Whenua perspective of engagement and relationship building is a tradition that transcends from our ancestral realms. If you were to look at engagement and relationship building using another cultural paradigm, it will look different, appreciating the diversity Aotearoa New Zealand has to offer.

Social workers establish caring and respectful relationships with authenticity, intention, and purpose, to uphold the wellbeing and resilience of people, whānau, and communities. Social workers identify strengths, needs and support networks to prioritise goals that will assist in addressing life challenges and major events.

Social work is a relationship-based profession and an academic discipline that incorporates analyses of social, environmental, economic, and spiritual factors. Social workers promote social change through empowerment and adhere to the principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversities.

Social workers use a range of specific social work methods and techniques drawn from a social work qualification prescribed by the SWRB. Their practice is informed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the IFSW / IASSW joint definition of social work and Statement of Ethical Principles, the ANZASW’s Code of Ethics and the SWRB’s Code of Conduct and Core Competence Standards.

Social workers apply their expertise in a variety of ways and roles including direct work with people and whānau, clinical social work, community development, consultancy, research, education, supervision, facilitation, advocacy, management, policy development and leadership.

*Note: The diagram above will be further developed for the final scope document, as will an explanation of the Niho Taniwha framework and graphic.*