

“Educating for the future: addressing the relevance of climate change impacts to New Zealand social work education”

Clients of social workers are commonly the victims of inequality and members of marginalised groups within the wider community. There is an overwhelming consensus in that literature that **these groups will be most affected by the impacts of climate change**. For this reason, knowledge on climate change impacts and sustainable practice need to be brought in to social work education across the country.

This PhD action research project, conducted by the School of Social work at Massey University, takes a four cycle approach and aims to:

1. **Communicate the relevance of climate change impacts** to the social work community.
2. **Start a “conversation”** in New Zealand social workers about our current ecological crisis
3. Make sense of the impacts of climate change and **translate their meaning for the New Zealand social work** practice context.
4. Encourage social workers to develop their practice using a **sustainable approach**.
5. **Identify future training needs** for social workers on sustainability and climate change impacts.

The next generation of New Zealand social workers will need to equip clients to respond resiliently to national and global scale systems insecurity, therefore social work education must train our future social workers to address the risks and opportunities that come with an interdependent world, at a community level.

The project is in due for submission in 2019.

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