



## Social Work Services Definition

### An explainer

The definition of social work services is narrow, reflecting that this is specific work with risk that the public would reasonably expect to be undertaken by a regulated professional.

The definition of social work services needs to be read in its entirety as a piece of work that you are employed to do, hence there are expectations about this work that you are held to account.

The definition of social work services captures the provision of services and is work that builds on and includes psychosocial assessment (see below for detailed definition) and analysis and interventions over time so that evaluations of the issue can be undertaken holistically.

The definition of social work services also captures the knowledge and skills that a social worker should be taught. It reflects a standard of education and training.

It is not possible to inadvertently provide social work services. It is an in-depth process that occurs over time and is a planned, conscious piece of work, that people are employed to do.

The definition of social work services is critical for the protection of risk work with vulnerable people and ensures that those who perform such work are held to a high standard of accountability. It is this high-risk work that has been identified in Royal Commissions and Coroner Reports.

**Please note:** because experience pathways are on offer at this point in time, if you are performing social work services without the qualification, you are still required to register.

