



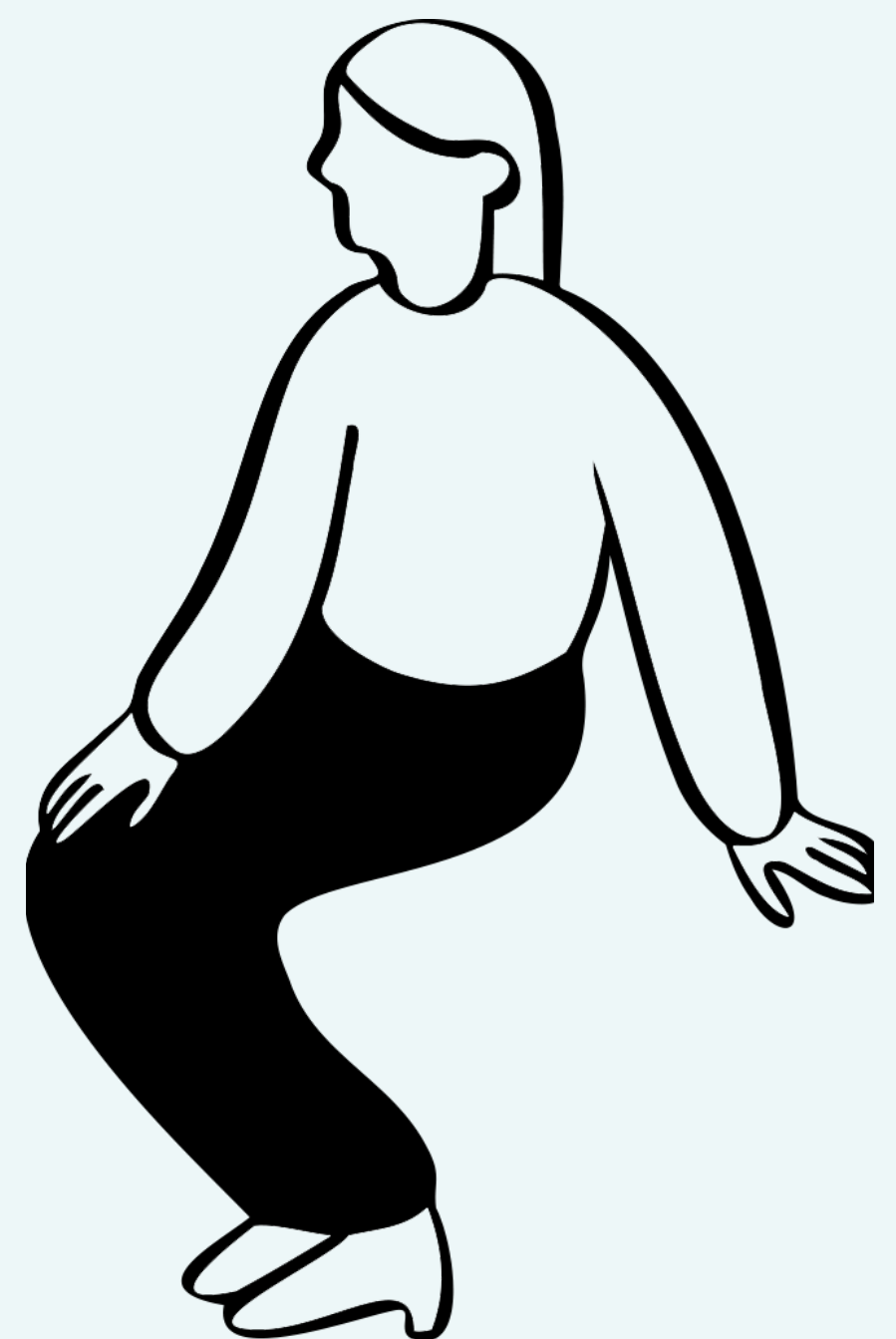
**Social Workers
Registration Board**
South Australia



Government
of South Australia



Intervention: An explainer



Understanding Intervention In Social Work

To understand the meaning of intervention, it is important to see how it has been used in the SWRB SA definition of social work services:

The social work services definition is:

A natural person undertaking psychosocial assessments, and analysis, and **interventions** to holistically evaluate the context of a person's or people's situations and their environments; for the purpose of identifying and responding to risk, and/or violence, and/or trauma, and/or harm.

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Social work **intervention** is a planned, ethical, and collaborative process, there are actions aimed at enabling change, promoting wellbeing, and addressing both personal and structural dimensions of social problems through theory-informed, evidence based and contextually grounded practice.

Intervention sits within the process outlined in the social work services definition, it comes from psychosocial assessments, and analysis, so that the planned actions are purposeful and situated holistically in the context of a person's or people's situations and their environments.

Reference List:

The following authoritative references have been used to understanding 'intervention' in the context of social work.

1. International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) (2014). Global Definition of Social Work.

- Social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work
- This definition positions “intervention” as action taken to mediate or change the interaction between people and their social environments.

2. AASW (Australian Association of Social Workers) (2020). Code of Ethics. Canberra: AASW.

- Social work intervention refers to the purposeful and skilled use of social work knowledge, values and methods to assist individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their wellbeing and achieve positive change.

3. Payne, M. (2014). *Modern Social Work Theory* (4th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

- Intervention in social work involves applying knowledge and methods to bring about planned change in people's lives, social relationships, or social structures
- Intervention is conceptualised as a process of planned change, central to practice theory.

4. Healy, K. (2014). *Social Work Theories in Context: Creating Frameworks for Practice* (2nd ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

- Social work interventions are the practical expressions of theoretical frameworks. They are actions taken by social workers to promote change, empowerment and social justice in response to assessed needs.

5. Harms, L. (2015). *Understanding Human Development: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

- Intervention as the planned, purposeful process of engaging with people to facilitate change and enhance wellbeing, grounded in social work values and an understanding of human development.

6. Chenoweth, L., & McAuliffe, D. (2017). *The Road to Social Work and Human Service Practice* (5th ed.). Cengage Learning.

- Intervention is the purposeful action taken by practitioners, in collaboration with service users, to bring about change in personal, interpersonal, or structural conditions that affect people's lives.