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# Minister for Mental Health Weekly Report

Week commencing 5 May 2025  
prepared on 30 April 2025

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# 1 Mental health work programme weekly update

## 1.1 Social worker workforce strategy and action plan

This item updates you on the development of a social worker workforce strategy and action plan, which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Child and Youth Ministerial Group on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

### Background

The Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) is the occupational regulator of the social work profession and lead agency for workforce planning for all social workers. It is a Crown entity under the Social Workers Registration Act (2003) and reports directly to the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

The SWRB gathers information through data and stakeholder engagement on issues facing the social worker workforce and provides these insights to support workforce decisions of agencies such as the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), Health New Zealand (Health NZ), Oranga Tamariki, and relevant organisations in the non-governmental organisation sector. The SWRB's Annual Social Worker Workforce Report 2024 found that mental health services are now the most common field of practice for registered social workers. Additionally, social workers form the biggest professional group to undertake training as Health Improvement Practitioners in primary care settings.

### Comment

s 9(2)(f)(iv), s 9(2)(g)(i)



<b>Deputy Director-General</b>	Geoff Short, Clinical, Community and Mental Health, s 9(2)(a)
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s 18(d)



**Deputy Director-General**

Geoff Short, Clinical, Community and Mental Health,  
s 9(2)(a)

## 2 Other updates

There are no updates this week.

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