

## Who can get help

A Year 8 boy was stood down from school for the seventh time. The SWiS worker discussed a plan with his family, and found a male mentor for the boy. The school board was impressed by the plan, accepted the boy's apology, and re-instated him. As a result, the boy's father – a "staunch, single dad" – sought support for his own difficulties, thanking the social worker for her efforts.

A 9-year-old boy had angry outbursts and a habit of running away when things got tough at home. The SWiS worker helped him find new ways to express his feelings – a skill which also taught his mother how to communicate better with her son.

*"I used to run away.  
Now I share the problem."*

– 9 year old boy



## Social Workers in Schools

*Enhancing the lives  
of children*

# Welcome to Family Works Social Workers in Schools



We are here to support children and families to learn, grow and thrive.

Social Workers in Schools are trained professionals who work in partnership with families and schools. They support children in Years 1 to 8 in three main ways:

1. Work in partnership with families and schools / kura kaupapa
2. Provide group programmes which help children and families succeed
3. Help families find community support and networks.

We focus on building on each family's strengths. The earlier we can work to address issues at school or at home, the better the outcomes for the child and their family.

This is a free service for all children and families in your school / kura community.

*“In the end it's about making things better for the children so they can concentrate on learning.”*

– Social Worker in Schools

## How we can help

Here are some of the things we can work on with you:

- social skills, self-esteem, and confidence for children
- children's peer relationships
- family relationships
- concerns about behaviour
- parenting
- family violence
- grief and loss
- advocacy
- referrals to other services

We connect parents with others to provide the best service for them and their child. This may include resource teachers for learning, health nurses and government agencies.

Teachers, principals or community members can refer children to Social Workers in Schools, but it's up to the families concerned – the service is voluntary.

Children and their families can also contact us directly.

Please ask us how we can help.



*“My son is much happier now and his behaviour at home has changed as well.”*

– Parent

## Who we are



Social workers in your school / kura community are employed by **Family Works Northern**, a non-government social service provider.

Our **vision** is for Aotearoa New Zealand to become the best place in the world to raise children / tamariki in flourishing families / whanāu.

We **champion** children / tamariki and affirm the strengths in every family / whanāu.

We **recognise** the factors that affect children / tamariki's behaviour and their ability to learn.

We **partner** with others to prevent problems escalating, and enhance the life of children / tamariki and families / whanāu.