

SSPA **Alert**  
SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AOTEAROA. 30 OCTOBER 2017

***SSPA Alert is to tell you about current events and seek your ideas and feedback.***

NGO SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE PROJECT

What’s happening?

SSPA is leading a project on the NGO social service workforce. This will give us a clearer understanding of the complexity of need and pressures on services, and what these mean for providers and the workforce in terms of staffing levels and the skills and qualifications required across the sector.

It will identify what providers will require, now and in the future, to support their workforce in capability development.

The project is made possible through funding support from [Careerforce](http://www.careerforce.org.nz/), the ITO for the social service and health sectors.

It is very timely. The new Government says it is committed to “investing in quality social service delivering for all . . .” along with a full funding review.

In our [briefing to the new ministers](http://sspa.org.nz/images/SSPA_BIM_2017.pdf), we proposed:

* An ongoing and realistic funding programme for capability development including professional development.
* A workforce development plan for social services that involves government funders, community and iwi social service providers, and ITOs and other training providers.

About the project

The project has two phases:

**Phase one** is research to gather evidence. It will include a survey of SSPA members and more in-depth engagement with selected organisations. This phase will be concluded by the end of the year.

**Phase two** will provide opportunities for further consideration of the evidence, followed by a report on emerging client needs, changes in policy and other factors that have implications for capability development across the workforce. This phase will be completed in March/April 2018.

The final report will provide SSPA and Careerforce with a picture of the workforce in its current and probable future states, and offer proposals on the resources that providers need to support workforce capability development into the future.

What it means for SSPA members

SSPA member organisations will be central to ensuring the project captures the reality of what’s happening on the front line.

You will be sent a survey in a couple of weeks. This should be completed by the chief executive officer or equivalent.

Please ensure we have the email address for the lead person in your organisation. If he or she does not receive the weekly SSPA Update, we don’t have the email address. Please send it to Ayumi, email [admin@sspa.org.nz](mailto:admin@sspa.org.nz)

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