



Dulwich Centre

18 September 2018

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is an offer of support for the legalisation and regulation of Clinical Social Work in Chile. We were delighted by the March 2018 decision to approve the 'Guidelines and technical standards of Social Work in Health' in Chile and to support social workers as mental health practitioners.

I work as the Co-ordinator of Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work in the Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne. Here in Australia, Social Workers play a vital role in providing clinical mental health care. So much so, there is a designation of Accredited Mental Health Social Worker recognised by the Australian Government.

Legal regulation of Clinical Social Work demonstrates that Social Workers can and should develop psychotherapeutic work and perform social therapy interventions to alleviate suffering and contribute to the wellbeing of the communities in which they work. Social Workers are well placed to work clinically with individuals, families, and communities. The strong presence of narrative therapy in Australia (an approach developed by Social Workers Michael White and David Epston) speaks to the importance of recognizing and supporting clinical Social Work.

This letter is offered as support from the international narrative therapy and social work community.

Warm regards,

Dr David Denborough
Senior Lecturer at Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne
Co-ordinator of Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work
Co-Director of Dulwich Centre