

Complaint in relation to social worker, Member A - Chief Executive's Preamble

In November 2012, a Complaints Resolution Hearing Panel considered charges of professional misconduct and serious professional misconduct against a social worker, Member A brought by the Complaints Convenor. The Convenor recommended that the membership of Member A be revoked as a response to the charge of serious professional misconduct. This charge related to a breach by Member A of a suppression-of-name order made by an earlier Complaint Resolution Hearing Panel in relation to Social Worker X. Member A had been a member of this Panel representing ANZASW. Member A admitted the facts of both charges.

The Panel issued its Determination in December 2013. The Panel did not accept the Convenor's recommendation, instead it: suspended the membership of Member A for 6 months; ordered that Member A be censured; ordered that Member A pay compensation to Social Worker X and a sum towards costs; and ordered that Social Worker A's name be published.

The Convenor lodged an appeal with the Governance Board to test whether suspension of membership was an adequate response to the upholding of the charge of serious professional misconduct against Member A. The Governance Board delivered the Appeal Decision in June 2013. The Governance Board upheld the Determination of the Complaint Resolution Hearing Panel.

The Determination and the Appeal decision, both naming Member A, were posted on the Association's website in July 2012. At its August 2014 meeting, the ANZASW Board considered and granted an application by Member A that the material naming Member A be removed from the website, effective 18 August 2014. The Governance Board further ordered that versions of the Determination and the Appeal Decision removing all identifying references to Member A be placed on the website as soon as this could be organised.



Lucy Sandford-Reed
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
20 August 2014