**[Member Name]**
**[Address / Email]**
**[Date]**

Hon Steven Edgington
Minister for Health

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Alcohol Policy

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development

Minister for Essential Services

Email: Minister.Edgington@nt.gov.au

**Subject:** Government must act now to register social workers with Aphra and protect the public

Dear Minister Edgington,

I am writing as a social worker in the Northern Territory to demand action on an urgent matter of public safety: **the inclusion of social work in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS)**.

**Social work registration through NRAS is needed** to:

1. Better protect the public from harm from misconduct and poor standards of practice.
2. Uphold professional standards
3. Ensure only those who hold a social work qualification can use the title ‘social worker’.

### **The facts are clear:**

* Unregulated social work poses a **significant risk** to public health and safety.
* Social workers operate in **high-risk environments** with vulnerable people: in health and mental health services, family violence, aged care, disability, justice and child protection.
* Social work is one of the **largest nationally unregulated health and social care professions** in the country.
* There are **approximately 49,500 social workers** in Australia, growing at a rate of 3,600 social workers every year.
* **Anyone can call themselves a “social worker”**, regardless of qualifications or disciplinary history.
* There is **strong and widespread support among social workers** for national registration through NRAS.

### **A pathway to registration of social work through NRAS already exists:**

The [**Independent Review of Complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (2025)**](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/transforming-health-professionals-regulation-in-australia-independent-review-final-report.pdf) confirms the government has both the mandate and mechanism to act:

* **Action 2.4**: recommends that where there is evidence of *current and significant risk to public health and safety*, professions should be considered for **immediate inclusion** in NRAS.
* The Review also makes clear that the **existing Guidelines allow for the inclusion of professions in social care settings**, where consistent with the Scheme’s purpose.

Social work meets these tests. The risks are current, significant, and well-documented. This is clear in the comprehensive submission provided to you by the AASW.

### **What must happen now**

I call on you to:

1. Table the AASW’s submission on social work registration at the **next Health Ministers’ Meeting**.
2. Commit to progressing social work registration via the NRAS process under **Action 2.4**.
3. Publicly affirm the government’s commitment to address existing regulatory failures that are putting people at risk across Australia.

**Minister, the evidence is clear, the mechanism exists, and the responsibility rests with you. Protect the public. Register social work now.**

Yours sincerely,
 [Name]
 [Qualifications – BSW, MSWQ, AMHSW]
 [Contact details]