

## Values-based politics and new structural social work: Theory for a post-neoliberal age?

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<https://doi.org/10.34074/whan.007103>

### Abstract:

The mission of social work includes implementing positive changes in the structures of society to enhance social justice, not simply assisting individuals and families to achieve personal growth and better adaptation to our existing society. This theoretical article explores a basis for social workers in Aotearoa to implement this mission in the current political context of our country. It aligns with the values-based politics promoted by author Max Harris in his recent book *The New Zealand Project* (2017) and draws on structural social work as a specific social work theory that can inform this mission. The election of a more progressive government may provide the social work profession with an alliance that can implement positive social change.

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This publication may be cited as:

Matthewson, P. (2021). Values-based politics and new structural social work: Theory for a post-neoliberal age? *Whanake: The Pacific Journal of Community Development*, 7(1), 60–76. <https://doi.org/10.34074/whan.007103>

About this journal:

*Whanake: The Pacific Journal of Community Development* is a digital journal for practitioners and academics who love community development. For more issues please visit: <https://www.unitec.ac.nz/ePress/index.php/category/publications/journals/whanake/>

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ISSN  
2423-009X