



# The Professional Social Worker: Meeting the Challenge

*Neil Thompson*

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## **The Professional Social Worker: Meeting the Challenge** Neil Thompson

In this ground-breaking book, bestselling author Neil Thompson turns his attention to the question of, 'What does it mean to be truly professional in the field of social work?'

Notions of professionalism in social work have changed over time. Early traditional ideas showed themselves to be elitist and inconsistent with the fundamental principles of social work, and have been followed by a period of uncertainty as to whether or not social workers are professionals at all. Now, with a move towards a new form of professionalism beginning to take shape, this book presents a cogent argument for reaffirming this vital aspect of social work.

Informed by extensive experience and expertise, Thompson examines the role of the modern-day social worker in four parts: as problem solver, thinker, manager and professional. With a sharp focus on the idea of authentic professionalism throughout, and written in Thompson's inviting and highly accessible style, each chapter features:

- Clear and easily digestible explanations
- Real-life 'Voice of experience' examples to illustrate key points
- 'Practice focus' sections to encourage readers to think contextually
- A broad range of reflective questions and activities to aid application, and a wealth of guidance on further learning

Whether you are a social work student new to the complexities of this demanding, rewarding field, or a qualified practitioner seeking a revitalizing source of guidance, this book will help you meet the challenge of developing a professionalism that is consistent with the values of contemporary social work.

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