

### **Paid Placements**

- Structural issues would impede this being an option – who is going to pay for the student wage?
- They are still students, still gaining their skills, but in a workplace setting.
- Host organisations are often underfunded/under-resourced as it is – if they had additional finances, they would employ qualified workers.
- In this setting, employing students would mean they may not provide the support needed for students to grow and learn – leading to less learning and even less capability to be job ready upon graduation.
- Creates an issue relating to absorption of risk factors as well – social workers are often working with complex people and in complex spaces – if paid, and not given adequate support, places the clients of the host organisation at risk and by default, the host organisation at risk if something happens.
- Currently 19,000 social workers in an accredited course, this means there are 4,000-9,000 students on a placement at any one time. Lots of placements – host organisations just won't pay for this.
- If the university pays – then it is a cost that would be put forward to the student. Placement is a significant cost to the university – must set up separate learning agreements and for each placement, there are two visits.
- There are some working models – Melbourne University – outlier – least number of students – they will pay an employer \$1k to take the students, so larger organisations will then take a group of students and can employ people to manage the students.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

Rachel

**Rachel Reilly**

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