



## WELFARE OFFICERS

The Buddhist Society is looking to set up a team of Welfare Officers/Helpers to minister and attend to the needs of our membership and the broader public. In the first instance we are looking to recruit members who have the “where-with-all” and skills to help set in place a structure to allow a team of members to offer the services. Ideally we are initially looking for members who can help to set into place a structure of training along with skills and protocols to allow future members of this team to feel they have the confidence and skill to attend to any needs that may be requested.

These needs may range from simply providing a listening ear as they attend to someone who is having problems, through to having some skill in knowing where and how to access help for a client. Those seeking help and comfort may present with mental illness, physical illness including hospital visitation requests, prison visits etc. --- right through to requests for someone to attend to and be with someone on their death bed. The range of issues will cover a spectrum from arranging simple home and family help through to more complex situations that will require more complex consideration,

The Buddhist Society would like to set up a framework to offer training, support and supervision for any request that may come in. It is envisioned that this work would be voluntary however our team would always have the support of our monastic community and hopefully we will be able to set into place a strong support system to facilitate this service. We do have some help and expertise in knowing how and where to access funding for training, however any help or skill that can be offered in this area will be very much appreciated. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we would like to be in a position to invite our general membership to join and build this team. This will allow for the sanity and wisdom that is readily available within our practicing community to be tapped for the benefit of the world.

It goes without saying that offering this service for the benefit of others is very beneficial for your own personal meditation practice. The world is arguably in a crisis of confidence at this time with anxiety and depression creating an epidemic of mental illness. The meaning of life seems to be being questioned everywhere. This is an opportunity for our members to reach out and offer real help to both our own membership and the wider world.

If you feel you are resonating with what has been said and would like to help please contact our Administration Office or myself, Dennis Sheppard --- President of the BSWA.

Admin details are:

(08) 9345 1711 or Email: [admin@bswa.org](mailto:admin@bswa.org)

My details are:

Dennis Sheppard --- Phone: (08) 8367 3918 or Email: [president@bswa.org](mailto:president@bswa.org)

Kindest regards

Dennis Sheppard

President BSWA