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Welfare and professional identity in *Australian Social Work*

The Australian community services sector has undergone massive change with the introduction of welfare reform in the late 1990s. In Paper1 we showed that it is one of the most complex and difficult areas to understand, spanning a broad array of services with a diverse workforce. Most recently, the NSW Premier announced the amalgamation of 160 state agencies into 30 super departments, though the details have yet to be made public. Within this volatile environment, social workers are constantly faced with issues of professional identity exacerbated by a lack of recognition by government of standards internal to the profession. This paper – Paper 2 – reports on the findings of an analysis of *Australian Social Work* between 2000 and 2008 in order to see what this journal tells us about the nature of social work in Australia and the contexts in which it is practised. Furthermore, for the purpose of this paper, we were interested to see what was said about social workers' professional identity and the broader welfare context in which they work.