

## **Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin)**

### **Qualification Recognition Review on Higher Diploma in Social Work**

#### THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

##### Executive Summary

The Assessment Team appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (the Board) reviewed documentation and conducted site visit to the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin) on 4 - 5 January 2024 for qualification recognition review of the Higher Diploma in Social Work (HDSW). The Assessment Team is of the view that the HDSW qualification has met the basic requirements laid down in the *Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers (8<sup>th</sup> edition)*; and recommends the Board to recognize HDSW qualification awarded by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin), thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of *five* years from 2024/25 to 2028/29. The Assessment Team also supports the increase in student intake quota from 75 to 100 for 2024/25 onwards.

##### Commendations

1. Assessment Team (AT) is impressed by the quality of the teaching team. They are diligent and highly committed to providing high level of care to students, especially students with special needs.
2. The HDSW programme is led by a thoughtful and dedicated Programme Leader with strategic vision. She has been successful in leading the teaching team to fulfill all the conditions and follow up on the recommendations arising from the last QRR.
3. The senior management of IVE(ST) has been supportive to the programme team on enhancement of the programme and securing government subvention on the HDSW programme. Stakeholders including external advisors and agency partners are also supportive.
4. AT appreciates that IVE(ST) has adopted a holistic educational approach to student development. This is reflected by the curriculum design and also the extracurricular activities and supportive services provided for students.
5. It is observed that there is synergy between HDSW teaching team with other disciplines within the department and support services departments. Various teams supporting the HDSW have been working cohesively in achieving the objectives of the HDSW programme.
6. AT is also impressed that students interviewed are innovative, energetic, with good attitude, and ready to take up new challenges on matters related to learning and fieldwork.

## Summary of Suggestions

1. To explore ways of enhancing the linkage between social work theories and practice subjects and skills training workshop for students to consolidate and integrate social work theories into skills practice.
2. To consider teaching mental health and related subjects as a core module instead of elective module so as to develop their professional competences in handling mental health issues.
3. To take a standardized approach to describing module content in the Scheme of Work in terms of depth and breadth of teaching content descriptions.
4. There should be recruitment plan in place for IVE(ST) to recruit one more full-time teaching staff to support the small class teaching requirement due to increase in admission quota from 75 to 100 starting from 2024/25.
5. Findings of Student Feedback Questionnaire (SFQ) survey and employer survey should be fed back to relevant stakeholders so that they are well informed of the enhancement measures taken in response to their opinions.
6. Students should be aware of the process of student representation and the ways of channeling feedback to the programme team.
7. To enhance infrastructure including increasing the availability of student small group study rooms, upgrading of IT facilities and the facilities of the skill laboratory for the specific use of HDSW programme.
8. Students should be aware of the available financial assistance, subsidies and scholarships to support their learning.

## THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendations of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of 5 years from 2024/25 to 2028/29 with 6 commendations and 8 suggestions for enhancement, and to approve the increase in student intake quota from 75 to 100 for the academic year 2024/25 onwards.