



Expression of Interest: A research grant to undertake practitioner research – 2011/2012 Grant

The AASW is inviting Expressions of Interest for a research grant of \$5,000 for an AASW member/s in order to undertake a practice research project in an area of social work practice.

The research grant is an initiative of the Australian Association of Social Workers and will be administered by the AASW National Research Committee.

The Australian Association of Social Workers is the professional representative body of Social Workers in Australia, with 6,000 members nation-wide. The AASW is an incorporated company, guided by a constitution and nationally managed by a Board of Directors, elected from and by the membership.

Objectives of the AASW

- Promote the profession of social work
- Enhance the public and professional recognition and identity of social work
- Establish, monitor and improve practice and ethical standards
- Contribute to the development of social work knowledge and research
- Develop, review and accredit the education standards for Social Workers
- Advocate for the pursuit of social justice and changes to social structures and policies in order to promote social inclusion and redress social disadvantage
- Promote and facilitate members' professional development and life-long learning
- Represent and advocate for the interests of members as a group.

AASW Research Committee

Research is key to the continued development of the theory and knowledge base of social work practice. Research is a key area of social work practice and is one of the six objectives included in the AASW Practice Standards for Social Workers which identifies that "client needs, organisational goals and social policy are addressed through the application of the social worker's values, knowledge and skills in the research process" (AASW, 2003, p 6.).

The purpose of the AASW Research Committee is to provide leadership, coordination and strategic focus in research that promotes the mission of the Association.

Background

Practitioner based research provides an important contribution to the evidence and knowledge base of social work.

The National Research Committee is committed to promoting a culture of research within the profession; positioning the AASW as an important stakeholder in research and contributing to the development of the evidence base for social work practice and policy.

Deliverable

- To undertake a practice research project that is in line with the AASW objectives.
- The practice research will address a significant social work practice issue.
- The Researcher will be prepared to present the research at a relevant conference.
- The Researcher will be prepared to submit an article to the Australian Social Work journal for consideration for publication.

Purpose of the grant

To provide financial support to meet the costs of conducting the research including (but not limited to) staffing, travel, library services, recording equipment, software or administrative support. The research must be focused on practice research and it is the intention that the grant supports practitioners undertaking research, or research that is intimately tied to practitioner issues as the priority

The Applicant/s must be members of the AASW.

Priority areas for the review

Emerging areas of practice and policy, for instance mental health, child protection and wellbeing, indigenous issues, cross cultural, family law and Social Work.

Administration of the grant

The grant will be disbursed in two payments. An initial payment of \$2,500 will be made on signature of the MOU between the AASW and the successful organisation. A final payment for the balance of the grant will be made following review of a midway progress report to be submitted no later than 23rd June 2011 and subject to the MOU agreement.

The research project is to be completed within 24 months.

Key Dates

- Expressions of Interest to be received by 11 November 2011.
- Applicants to be advised week of 19 December. An MOU to be signed by the relevant parties prior to the disbursement of funds.
- Progress reports to be submitted 23rd June 2012 and 21 December 2012

Enquiries:

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Convenor AASW National Research Committee

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Expression of Interest Criteria

Expressions of interest need to be structured to address the following:

- I. Chief Researcher:
- II. Qualifications of Chief Researcher:
- III. Curriculum vitae that includes details of previous research experience, publications, including any peer review publications, areas of expertise (to be attached):
- IV. Details of the researcher's Supervisor/Mentor (include information as per point III above):
- V. Details of secondary researchers to be involved (include information as per point III above):
- VI. Details of organisation at which the research will be conducted:
- VII. Aims and purpose of organisation:
- VIII. Evidence of support for the research by employing organisation:

Research project summary:

- IX. Title of proposed research:
- X. Synopsis of the issue/s that the review will address (500 words max):
- XI. Aims and objectives of the research:
- XII. Brief literature review (minimum 5 articles), indicating the justification for the project:
- XIII. Outline of proposed review methodology (500 words max):
- XIV. Proposed method of gaining Ethics approval, including who this will be sought from:
- XV. Details of how the research will contribute to the Social Work profession and evidence base:

Proposed Budget:

- XVI. Outline of how the funds will be spent:

Proposed timelines:

Proposed communication of results:

Completed Research submissions to be submitted to

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