

Expression of Interest: A research grant to undertake practitioner research in 2014/2015

AASW Practitioner Research Grant 2014/2015

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

Overview

The research grant is an initiative of the Australian Association of Social Workers National Research Committee.

Research is key to the continued development of the theory, knowledge and evidence base of social work practice. As such it is a key area of social work practice. Social workers utilise research and create knowledge in their work in diverse settings, engaged in a range of activities including case work and case management, community work, group work, organisational development, social policy and educational roles. The purpose of this grant is to encourage research by social workers (practitioners) who are outside the formal research institutions and who have limited access to research funding.

The grant scheme encourages social work practitioners to develop and implement a research project which will make a contribution to the evidence and knowledge base of social work. The grant is available for qualitative, quantitative, theoretical and applied research, projects or programs associated with social work practice.

Through this grant scheme, the AASW hopes to widen the expertise of social work practitioners in conceptualising, developing and implementing practice research.

The research, project or program grant can be used to support practice research or projects including, but not limited to:

- Research projects focussed on a particular practice issue. These will typically comprise data collection, methodological development/refinement, instrument/schedule development and data analysis.
- Pilot projects (but not an initial literature review) that will typically comprise data collection, methodological development/refinement, instrument/schedule development, and data analysis valuation projects which may comprise outcome evaluations of social work practice.
- Evidence based practice research designed to produce, synthesise, implement and disseminate evidence in relation to social work practice.

Objectives of the program scheme

The objectives of the program are to:

- Provide support for practice based research
- Provide funding for progressing ideas that address emerging areas of practice and policy
- Facilitate and foster collaborative research, planning and development with a focus on supporting practitioner researchers
- Encourage mentoring among research teams.

Timelines

- First call for applications: **13 August 2014**
- Deadline for applications: **25 September 2014**. Late applications will not be accepted
- Successful applications announced early **November 2014**.
- Research project commencement – **immediately after successful applicant has been notified**
- Funding will be available for **12 months**. Additional funding will not be provided for extensions required to complete the project.

Eligibility

General Conditions

- **Applicants must be members of the AASW**
- All applications must include all the documentation requested by the closing date. As these are competitive grants assessed by a panel including external reviewers, lack of clarity or completeness in documentation *may* rule an application ineligible

Specific Conditions

In addition to the general conditions, the following specific conditions apply:

- The research, project or program must commence no later than **December 2014**.
- The successful applicant must file a 6 month progress report (emailed to **AASW Professional Officer – Standards** at research@asw.asn.au highlighting key milestones and tracking to budget.
- Acknowledge the AASW in all presentations and publications relating to the research, project or program.
- Grant recipients are expected to present the outcomes of their research at an appropriate conference or through publication. *Australian Social Work* should be considered as a publication destination.
- Greater weighting is given to applications where the Principal Researcher is a Practitioner employed in a non-academic position.

Funding rules

- Projects within the program can have the support of a partner organisation and this support may be financial or 'in kind' funding.
- Funding cannot be transferred to another institution, project or program.
- A maximum of 50% of funds may be used for work release.
- Applicants must be continuing members of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Applicants who are Accredited Social Workers as defined by the AASW will be awarded extra weighting to their applications.
- All applications must address all of the selection criteria on the application form.
- Applications for research, projects or programs already in receipt of funding will not be accepted
- Conference funding is limited to a maximum of 10% of the total of the grant awarded.
- Grant recipients are required to provide two reports on the project, at an agreed mid-point and a final report at the end of the project to the AASW.

Funding disbursement

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 at an agreed mid-point of the research and subject to the MOU agreement.

Submission Details

One signed hard copy of the application as well as a soft copy via email is required.

The submission must include (please refer to **EOI Required Details** at the end of this document):

- A cover letter that:
 - Requests consideration of the application
 - Introduce applicant(s) and the research, project or program
 - Specifies how the grant money will be used
 - Requests consideration of the application
- A research, project or summary (that includes an overview of the research, project or program including statement of significance, current status and cite relevant extant literature (Background), questions and goals of the research, project or program being undertaken (Aims,) methods (Approach), ethics approval process, schedule (Timeframe, scale and budget), ethics clearance arrangements (*NB all successful projects are dependent on ethics approval, which may be granted after the Grant is awarded*); Budget details; proposed communication strategy of results.
- CV for all applicants.

The hard copy should be forwarded to:

AASW CEO -

AASW Melbourne Office

PO Box 2008

Royal Melbourne Hospital

VIC 3050

The electronic (soft) copy should be forwarded by the due date to:

AASW CEO

ceo@asw.asn.au

Selection Criteria

The grant is designed to provide financial support to meet the costs of conducting an important piece of practice 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 following selection criteria apply and must be addressed explicitly in the application:

1. The significance of the practice issue (Aims and approach).
2. Links to current practice knowledge, demonstrated by a succinct account of recent research into the field of inquiry and other evidence. (Background & significance)
3. Appropriateness and achievability of method, timeframe, scale, and budget. (Feasibility of approach)
4. The qualification of the research team to undertake the project. The team must include at least one current practitioner. (Composition, relevance and expertise of team)

Each of the four selection criteria is assessed according to the following weighting:

Criterion 1 – 25%

Criterion 2 – 25%

Criterion 3 – 25%

Criterion 4 – 25%

The selection committee will comprise three members of the AASW National Research Committee. If required, additional evaluators from the National Research Committee will be invited to form part of the selection committee. All applicants will be advised following final approval from the AASW Board of the National Research Committee's recommendations. Applicants will be advised in writing.

If you have any queries relating to the Practitioner Grants please contact:

Fotina Hardy

Email - fotina.hardy@qut.edu.au

Telephone – 0419 773 395 / 0481 008 597

Expression of Interest Required Details (Please adhere to the word count specified)

1. Research project summary:

- Title of proposed research.
- Overview of the issue/s that the research will address including statement of significance for how the research will contribute to the social work profession and evidence base (500 words max)
- Background - brief literature review (minimum 5 articles), indicating the justification for the project.
- Aims and objectives of the research.

2. Methodology/Approach: Outline of proposed research methodology (500 words max).

3. Ethics approval: including proposed method of gaining Ethics approval, including who this will be sought from.

4. Timeframe for the research.

5. Budget: Outline of how the funds will be spent with timeframe.

6. Results: proposed communication of results.

7. Applicant/s Details:

- Name of Chief Researcher
- Qualifications of Chief Researcher
- Curriculum vitae that includes details of previous research experience, publications, including any peer review publications, areas of expertise (to be attached)
- Details of the researcher's supervisor/mentor
- Details of other researchers to be involved (include names, qualifications, CV)

8. Hosting organisation: details of the organisation at which the research will be conducted, including evidence of support for the research by the employing organisation.