



Pictured above: view towards the Grampians from Wal Wal Road and Fishers Road near Taylors Lake, Horsham (photo credit: Travel Victoria)

RURAL/REMOTE SOCIAL WORK RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Rural Social Workers Action Practice Group
(RSWAPG)**

**Victorian Branch – AASW Ltd
ABN 93 008 576 010**

**14th Biennial Rural Remote Social Work Conference
Thursday 25th July and Friday 26st July 2019
Horsham Convention Centre**

Social workers in rural/remote communities are constantly responding to diverse challenges, often requiring a strong commitment to seeking creative strategies and responding from both a community development and clinical practice approach.

Stop, take a few days out and come to beautiful Horsham, in the Wimmera region of North Western Victoria. Take a break and reflect on the work that you do and be inspired by how your fellow social workers respond to challenges, engage with the community and deliver innovative practice.

This conference provides a fantastic opportunity to share stories of how social workers have risen to challenges, made the impossible become possible. This conference is unlike other conferences in that it has a long history of appreciating the complexities and the beauty of rural/remote communities, relationships within and across boundaries and interwoven community relationships that have developed over time. Importantly this conference is about the planning and the doing, and ultimately about strengthening the communities well-being.

Submissions:

An invitation is extended for submission of abstracts for oral presentations and/or posters. Please consider submissions in the light of the following question: What skills/knowledge will participants gain from this presentation or poster? How does your presentation demonstrate/relate to the theme of responding to challenges, community engagement and innovative rural social work practice.

Presentations will be for 40 minutes (inclusive of question time).

Important Dates:

Final Submission Date: Thursday 28th February 2019. You will be notified of the outcome of your application after the 8th March 2019.

Abstract Submission Process:

The abstract must be submitted as a word document via email to: Metaxia Tsoukatos (metaxia.tsoukatos@familysafety.vic.gov.au) and Martin Butler (mpbutler@bigpond.com).

The abstract title should be in Title Case, Arial, bold 14 pt size and centred. The abstract should contain:

- Paper's Title
- Full author list, department and organisation, presenting author/s underlined,
- Primary person's contact details
- Text – 200 words outlining the proposed presentation
- Abstract titles should be followed by author's first initial and last name. Do not include degrees or professional titles.
- Abstract text must be in Arial font 12 pt size.
- The covering email must specify if the abstract is to be considered for an oral presentation and/or a poster.

Selection Process:

Abstracts will be rated anonymously using the following criteria:

- Submissions should be relevant to the theme and objectives of the conference
- Clarity of presentation
- Contribution of new knowledge or practice models to the field

Submission of Full Presentation:

If successful in submitting a presentation a full copy of the presentation must be received a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the conference – 8th July 2019. This will enable time for the conference materials to be compiled. Presentation to be forwarded to Metaxia Tsoukatos (metaxia.tsoukatos@familysafety.vic.gov.au) and Martin Butler (<mailto:mpbutler@bigpond.com>).

Note:

Presenters are required to register for either the day of their presentation or for the whole conference.

If you require further information please contact Metaxia Tsoukatos or Martin Butler.