

Terms of Reference: MH Accreditation (MHA) Practice Group

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Practice Groups report to the Branch Management Committee (BMC), work with and are supported by the NT Branch and represent the interests of the NT membership. Relevant AASW documents are: National and Branch Strategic Plans, the Code of Ethics, Practice Standards, the Reconciliation Action Plan, The Constitution and the By-Laws.

Purpose and Functions

Purpose

- To provide support, leadership, and direction to AASW (NT) members working towards obtaining MH Accreditation
- To provide advice and feedback to problem solve challenges faced by AASW (NT) members working towards obtaining MH Accreditation.
- To support members to maintain their MH accreditation, and to provide a context in which new members can be mentored by accredited members.
- To improve access to required CPD for AASW (NT) members in regional, rural and remote areas.

Functions

- Promote and encourage AASW members to become MH Accredited Social Workers
- Improve recognition of MH Accredited Social Workers in the NT context
- Develop an annual AASW (NT) CPD programme for members, across the career spectrum, to develop, improve and broaden their skills, knowledge and expertise in relation to CPD which directly contributes to their movement towards MH Accreditation
- Ensure the AASW (NT) CPD programme is responsive to new knowledge needs as identified by members
- Contribute to AASW (NT) strategic planning as it relates to MH and the NT geographical and cultural context.

Relationships and Accountability

- The MHA Practice Group is authorised by, and accountable to the BMC.
- The BMC to approve all external expenditures and/or representations conducted by the MHA Practice Group.
- All activities undertaken by the MHA Practice Group fit within the relevant AASW Guidelines and BMC authorisation.

Resourcing

- Activities are funded through the AASW (NT) processes, proposals are put and approved within the annual budget cycle.
- The Convenor (or delegate) will liaise with the AASW (NT) office to support members access to conferencing / meeting / training facilities (as required)
- The Convenor (or delegate) will liaise with AASW (NT) office to arrange periodic notices and updates i.e. website, Facebook, E-bulletins (where required).

Membership

- Pursuant to the AASW bylaws, the MHA Practice Group will be open to all NT Branch members.
- The MHA Practice Group shall be convened by up to two co-convenors, who shall work collaboratively to facilitate the group. Any co-convenors must be approved by the BMC, and at least one convenor must be a member of the BMC.

Meetings

- Ideally once per month, through face to face, phone or video conferencing to engage and support membership from across the AASW (NT) geographic region.

Reporting Requirements

The Convenor (or delegate) will:

- distribute minutes to members within one week of each meeting and give a copy to the Branch Manager to put on the web and to go as part of the BMC meeting correspondence
- give an annual snapshot to be included in the Annual Members Meeting reports
- seek prior approval from the BMC for any public activity, publication or statement
- report any significant deliberations and decisions to the BMC in a timely manner (this may include outside of scheduled BMC meetings), record conflicts of interest as they arise
- report any operational concerns to the Branch President.

Evaluation and review

- The BMC will review the Practice Group as part of the Branches annual strategic planning process.