

Referee Statement: New Application for Accredited Mental Health Social Worker (AMHSW) Status

Explanatory notes for employers/supervisors completing this reference

You have been asked to complete the following form by a social worker who is seeking to become accredited by the AASW as a Mental Health Social Worker. Accreditation will qualify the social worker to register with Medicare Australia for a Medicare Provider Number. Before completing this form, please check that you meet the requirements of an [eligible referee](#).

There are 6 criteria/components to the accreditation process. An applicant (social worker) must:

- Hold current membership of the AASW
- Have at least 2 years full time equivalent (FTE) post qualifying social work experience in a mental health field/setting within the past five years. An applicant must be able to articulate how their experience meets the AASW *Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 2014*;
- Have received at least 2 years full time equivalent (FTE) post qualifying supervision in a mental health setting/field within the past five years;
- Have met the current AASW AMHSW Continuing Professional Development requirements;
- Demonstrate ability and knowledge of clinical Mental Health Social Work practice;
- Arrange an employer or supervisor to provide a referee statement confirming skills, competencies and 2 years full time equivalent (FTE) have been completed within the past 5 years in line with recency of practice requirements.

For further information about the criteria please refer to the AASW requirements as listed below.

The AASW requires information on the applicant (social worker's) capabilities to practice according to the AASW *Practice Standards for Mental Health 2014*.

Please note that you may be contacted directly by the assessing officer if further clarification is needed.

In preparing your reference you may find it helpful to refer to the definitions and documents that follow these explanatory notes.

References

[AASW Criteria for Accreditation as a Mental Health Social Worker](#)

[AASW Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 2014](#)

[AASW Supervision Standards 2014](#)

Please return this reference to the applicant to include in their online application,

OR if you prefer, forward directly to: mentalhealth@asw.asn.au

or
Mental Health Team
Australian Association of Social Workers
PO Box 2008
ROYAL MELBOURNE HOSPITAL VIC 3050

Section 1: Referee and Applicant Details

This is to be completed by an employer/supervisor - past or present.

Please note: you must 'Save As' before completing the document.

Name of AMHSW Applicant:

Your personal details:

Preferred title: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other

Full name:

Position/job title:

Organisation

Address:

Phone Contact:

Email:

Relationship with applicant:

Please read our [Referee Statement Information](#) to ensure you meet the referee requirements. Please describe your relationship with the applicant and the nature of your role as employer/supervisor. Please include relevant dates and details of the practice setting in which you work (or worked) with the applicant. Please attach a separate typed and signed page if more space is required.



Please provide comments regarding the applicant's employment equivalence within the last 5 years (for example 'the applicant currently is employed 0.8 FTE however, from Jan 2019 - Oct 2020 was employed full time').

Referee Qualifications:

Please state your relevant qualifications and experience in the mental health field. Please contact mentalhealth@asw.asn.au if you require clarification as to your appropriateness to provide a referee statement.

Section 2: Referee Statement

Please provide a referee statement related to the applicant. Please include your assessment of the applicant's capability, knowledge and skills to provide clinical social work services in the mental health field. **Specific information about the applicant's knowledge and use of evidence based therapeutic interventions, including their use of and competency in FPS should also be included.**

A suggestion is to try and keep your entry to 500 words. If you require more space, please feel free to attach a separate signed page.



Section 3: Clinical Social Work Mental Health Field – Practice Standards

The required Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 2014 for applicants applying for accreditation as a Mental Health Social Worker (AMHSW) have been outlined below. Applicants are required to demonstrate knowledge, skills and experience in clinical social work services in the field of mental health.

Please tick the appropriate box against each of the standards listed to indicate that, in your view, the applicant meets or does not meet this standard. There is additional space for comments if required.

1. Values and Ethics		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 1.1	Establishes a professional working relationship with the person who has a mental illness or disorder and their significant others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 1.2	Acts on the social justice issues related to people with a mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 1.3	Integrates the concept of recovery into practice, promoting choice and self determination within medico-legal requirements and duty of care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				

2. Professionalism		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 2.1	Manages personal workload	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 2.3	Works as a professional in private practice, a member of a unit and or a multidisciplinary team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				



3. Culturally responsive and inclusive practice		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 3.1	Understands the way mental illness and mental health are conceptualized in the person's culture of origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 3.2	Understands the way mental illness and mental health are conceptualised in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture of origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				

4. Knowledge for practice		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 4.1	Possesses current knowledge, concepts and evidence based theories of the individual in society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 4.4	Possesses knowledge of mental health psychopathology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 4.6	Has knowledge of government mental health policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				



5. Applying knowledge to practice		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 5.1	Completes a comprehensive bio psycho social assessment and case formulation addressing the physical, psychological and social aspects of the person and their situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 5.2	Develops and implements one or more evidence based, therapeutic interventions with the person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 5.3	Advocates with and for person in relation to rights and resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 5.4	Undertakes case management (or a similar function)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 5.7	Collaborates with other services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				

Professional development and supervision		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 8.1	Maintains a critical reflective approach to social work practice in mental health with the aim of improving currency of knowledge and skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard 8.2	Accesses the research literature to be informed of the evidence base for professional mental health practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Comments:				

Recommendation	Yes	No
In your professional opinion is the applicant capable of practicing in accordance with the Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 2014?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Section 4: Declaration

I declare that:

1. The information I have supplied on this form and any attachments is complete, correct and up to date.
2. I am an appropriate referee and meet the referee requirements as set out in the [referee statement information](#)
3. I have read and understood the information supplied to me in the explanatory notes accompanying this application.

Signature:

Date:

How to Submit

Please return this reference to the applicant to include in their online application,

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or

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