

Referee Statement

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.

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 or demonstrably related position 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 or demonstrably related position within the past five years;
- Have met the current AMHSW Continuing Professional Development requirements;
- Demonstrate ability and knowledge of Clinical 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 requirement.

For further information about the criteria please refer to the AASW Requirements and Application form 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 Social Workers 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.

Documents

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

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

AASW [Supervision Standards 2014](#)

Further information or to submit

Feel free to call the Mental Health Team for assistance on 03 9320 1077.

Please either return this reference to the applicant, or if you prefer, forward directly to:

mental.health@asw.asn.au

or

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

Section 1: Referee Statement

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

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

Applicant's name:

Your personal details:

Preferred title: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other

Full name:

Position/job title:

Organisation:

Address for correspondence:

Town/Suburb:

State:

Postcode:

Work phone:

Email:

(include area codes)

Relationship with applicant:

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. If you require more space, please feel free to attach a separate typed and signed page.

If possible, please provide comments regarding the applicant's employment equivalence within the last 5 years would be appreciated, (for example 'the applicant currently is employed 0.8 FTE however, from Jan 2012 - Oct 2013 was employed full time').

Qualifications:

Please state your qualifications and experience in the mental health field.

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. Information about the applicant's knowledge and use of evidence based therapeutic interventions would be useful to include. 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 – Referee Statement

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			
Standard 1.2	Acts on the social justice issues related to people with a mental illness			
Standard 1.3	Integrates the concept of recovery into practice, promoting choice and self determination within medico-legal requirements and duty of care			

Further comments:

2. Professionalism		Yes	No	N/A
Standard 2.1	Manages personal workload			
Standard 2.3	Works as a professional in private practice, a member of a unit and or a multidisciplinary team			

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			
Standard 3.2	Understands the way mental illness and mental health are conceptualised in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture of origin			

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			
Standard 4.4	Possesses knowledge of mental health psychopathology			
Standard 4.6	Has knowledge of government mental health policy			

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			
Standard 5.2	Develops and implements one or more evidence based, therapeutic interventions with the person			
Standard 5.3	Advocates with and for person in relation to rights and resources			
Standard 5.4	Undertakes case management (or a similar function)			
Standard 5.7	Collaborates with other services			

Further comments:

8. 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			
Standard 8.2	Accesses the research literature to be informed of the evidence base for professional mental health practice			

Further comments:

	Yes	No
In your professional opinion is the applicant capable of practicing in accordance with the Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 2014?		

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 have read and understood the information supplied to me in the explanatory notes accompanying this application.

Signature:

Date:

How to submit:

You can return this referee statement to the applicant, or if you prefer, forward directly to:

mental.health@asw.asn.au

or

Mental Health team

Australian Association of Social Workers

PO Box 2008

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