

Practice, Policy, and Perspectives papers (Approved April 2014)

Summary

Practice, Policy, and Perspectives papers are similar to research papers in that both should be carefully and systematically written in a style and with a structure that is accessible to readers and builds upon existing knowledge. They differ in scale and depth. Practice, Policy, and Perspectives papers are shorter, and suitable for reporting on small-scale practice research projects, case studies of innovative practice or programs, or commenting on important current policy issues. These papers will be between 1,500 and 4,000 words, including abstracts and references.

Special Instructions

Practice, Policy, and Perspectives papers

The Editorial Board of *Australian Social Work* suggests the following format as an example of how a Practice, Policy and Perspectives paper might be structured:

- **Abstract**
The abstract should be no more than 100 words. It should summarise the aims, the context (e.g. policy or service context), the case study or practice innovation, what can be learnt from this case, and the conclusion.
- **Introduction and background**
This should state the purpose of the paper. Normally introductions include a short, relevant literature review, including pertinent background information. For example:
 - **Context** (e.g. the policy or service context).
 - **Review of literature on similar cases**
 - **Discussion of the evidence base**
 - **Discussion of the links between research and practice**
- **The project, case study, or policy issue**
Outline of the project, initiative or issue, what was done, why it is important.
- **Discussion of what can be learnt**
What was learnt or what resulted from this initiative. Observations and outcomes should be highlighted and critically discussed. It is useful to examine the significance of outcomes compared with similar initiatives, cases or examples.
- **Conclusion**
The conclusion contains a brief summary of the major outcomes of the project or innovative case study, or the conclusion from the policy analysis, but is not a reiteration of the abstract. Do not include new information, nor summarise the manuscript.
- **References**
A short reference list should be provided, including for any other case studies or practice innovations referred to in the introduction/review of the literature.
- **Footnotes**
Footnotes should not be used.