

Declaration of overseas professional conduct matters

From 22 July 2014, all new applicants for AASW membership and all applicants for an AASW International Qualifications Assessments (both membership eligibility assessment and migration skills assessments) are required to answer a question regarding their professional conduct overseas. This information is important to protect the public and uphold professional standards in Australia.

Please note that applicants are only asked to declare CURRENT suspensions or ineligibilities, in recognition that it is only current matters which are relevant to the AASW.

It is also important to note that declaring an overseas professional conduct matter to the AASW does not automatically preclude an application from proceeding.

Applicants are asked to answer the following question:

Are you currently suspended to hold, or ineligible to hold, or have conditions on a professional licence, registration or membership of a relevant professional body in another country?

Yes (please provide specific details)

No

- *I authorise the AASW to verify the information provided with any relevant overseas bodies*
- *I understand the AASW will undertake its own checks and verifications regarding what I have disclosed*
- *I confirm that I have responded to the "Declaration of overseas professional conduct matters" truthfully and fully, and I understand that if I fail to declare a matter this may result in the removal of my AASW membership eligibility in the future*

What happens when an applicant declares an overseas professional conduct matter?

If an applicant answers 'yes' to the Overseas Professional Conduct Declaration question this does not mean an automatic blanket exclusion of a social worker from AASW membership eligibility and/or IQA assessment process. The AASW only considers as relevant those overseas findings which are comparable to serious ethical misconduct, in line with the AASW Code of Ethics.

If an applicant answers yes to the above question then they must provide the AASW with details of the matter which led to this decision. Details and evidence provided to the AASW may include:

1. Links to any publicly available official documentation regarding the decision, where a body makes such information available publicly on their website
2. Enclosure of certified copies of any correspondence from the professional body regarding the decision.

In all cases, the applicant must authorise the AASW to verify the information provided with any relevant overseas bodies. The AASW will undertake active verifications regardless of what is disclosed.

The AASW will not rehear the matter. The AASW will accept that the matter has already been determined and that due process has been applied by the relevant overseas body.

The Professional Officer IQA will examine the matter which has been determined by the relevant overseas body, in consultation with the Senior Manager Professional Standards to determine if the current overseas conduct finding is a matter which is comparable to serious ethical misconduct in Australia in line with the AASW Code of Ethics. The recommendation of the relevant AASW staff will be presented to the AASW Board for final decision.

[AASW Code of Ethics](#)

[AASW Constitution By-Laws](#) (see section B, paragraph 1. b) and paragraph 4, page 7)