



AASW
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**Australian Association
of Social Workers**

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors

April 2014

Background

In November 2013, the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) launched its first [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP).

Reconciliation is the business of all social workers, and is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and non-Torres Strait Islander Australians talking and working together to achieve equality in Australia.

An important strategy identified in the AASW inaugural RAP is to progress the appointment of Reconciliation Ambassadors and champions.

About AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors

Role statement

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors provide the social work profession with leadership in reconciliation; they challenge the status quo and progress the reconciliation agenda within their sphere of influence in Australia.

Role pre-requisites

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors must be current AASW members (including student members).

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors may be Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, non-Aboriginal or non-Torres

Strait Islander.

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors will be committed to the AASW RAP and the principles of reconciliation, and will demonstrate cultural responsiveness and inclusivity in all aspects of their work.

Role description

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors will:

- Provide leadership to the social work profession in relation to reconciliation in Australia
- Promote the AASW's RAP and contribute to the AASW's efforts to achieve equality within our sphere of influence
- Actively seek opportunities to advance reconciliation
- Mentor and support other social workers to advance the reconciliation agenda through their own practice and/or to become AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors
- Formally report to the AASW bi-annually on their ambassadorial work
- In addition, ambassadors will meet the role expectations described below.

Role expectations

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors will be expected to:

- Demonstrate six (6) examples of reconciliation leadership and/or mentorship within the social work profession per year
- Demonstrate six (6) examples of promotion of the AASW's RAP in various ways throughout the year
- Will attend three (3) events related to reconciliation per year in their capacity as an AASW Reconciliation Ambassador
- Will provide four (4) written updates to AASW members per year regarding activities as an AASW Reconciliation Ambassador, for quarterly publication in the AASW National Bulletin

The AASW does not prescribe what the above activities will comprise. The possibilities for Reconciliation Ambassadorial work are broad, and innovation and initiative in this regard is encouraged.

Recognition of your contributions

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors and their reconciliation contributions will be recognised in:

- AASW Annual Report to members
- AASW annual progress reports to Reconciliation Australia
- On the AASW Reconciliation web page
- Other AASW publications

AASW Reconciliation Ambassador activities are also recognised as Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and hours undertaken can be recorded as official CPD hours for the purposes of achieving AASW CPD Accreditation.

Depending on the actual activity, reconciliation activities may be recognised across all three categories of the AASW CPD Policy:

- Category 1: Reflection, Ethical Practice and Career Development
- Category 2: Skills & Knowledge
- Category 3: Professional Identity

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors who achieve CPD accreditation (minimum 30 hours of CPD per year) may also be eligible to register to use the [Accredited Social Worker Trade Mark](#).

Appointment terms

AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors are appointed for an initial period of 12 months, with the option to extend appointments for a further 12 months following review and mutual agreement.

While a minimum 12 month commitment is sought, appointments may be ended earlier, either by mutual agreement, or by decision of the AASW or the Ambassador, should this be necessary.

Annual review

AASW Reconciliation Ambassador appointments are reviewed annually, taking into consideration factors such as:

- the work undertaken by the Ambassador over the previous year
- the Ambassador's ability to meet the requirements and expectations of the role

Annual reviews are conducted by representatives of the AASW Board and RAP Taskforce, in consultation with the Ambassadors.

It is expected that any issues or concerns identified through the review process, or at any time throughout an appointment, will be discussed openly between the parties, and where appropriate, opportunities to mutually address any concerns will be explored as the preferred option.

How to apply

If you are interested in becoming an AASW Reconciliation Ambassador, please send a letter addressing the role description above, and which demonstrates your commitment to reconciliation and describes how you will be a reconciliation leader and champion for the social work profession in Australia.

Please also include an up to date CV, which includes the following information:

- Name
- Whether you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Gender
- AASW Branch

- Email
- Mobile
- Contact details for two referees who can speak further to your commitment to reconciliation.

Please send your expression of interest to reconciliation@asw.asn.au

Any person may also nominate an AASW member (with their permission) whom you believe would be a suitable AASW Reconciliation Ambassador.

How will Ambassadors be appointed?

Ambassadors will be recommended for appointment after consideration of their responses to the role description and further conversations with potential Ambassadors and their referees, as appropriate.

Expressions of interest for AASW Reconciliation Ambassadors will be considered by the AASW RAP Taskforce (or a sub-committee of) in the first instance, with recommendations put to the AASW Board for ratification of appointment.

More information

Enquiries can be directed to Stephen Brand, Senior Manager Policy and Advocacy, at reconciliation@asw.asn.au or phone 02 6232 3900.