

ACHSSW DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION ISSUES AND OPTIONS

The Australian Council of Heads of Schools of Social Work hereby authorises the Working Party of Council members to undertake an inquiry of the following matters and to deliver to the Council's February 2018 meeting an Issues and Options paper that addresses the following terms of reference:

1. Identify and examine the legal and policy environment and obligations in which the Council and its member's social work programs operate with respect to establishing and operationalising relevant educational standards and accreditation requirements for social work education in Australia, including identifying any opportunities and risks for the Council and its members.
2. Articulate the historical and contemporary environment of social work higher education, nationally and internationally, and to advise Council on the trends, opportunities and challenges for Higher Education Providers.
3. Identify the merits of potential structural models to operationalise high quality educational programs and accredit these within the current and emerging higher education institutional arrangements.
4. Critically examine the substantive issues identified by Council members regarding the 2017 AASW's ASWEAS and provide guidance to the Council about how these might affect social work education and identify ways the ACHSSW might respond.
5. Research and critically examine the academic and professional literature concerning contemporary and emerging pedagogical models and approaches to social work education and field education, including the use of emerging digital technologies and other simulation approaches to teaching and learning.
6. Provide advice to the Council about emerging trends, issues and approaches to enhance standards and innovations in the delivery of quality social work programs.

To achieve these Terms of Reference the Working Party will act on behalf, and with the authority, of the ACHSSW and conduct a process of inquiry that includes: consultation with Council members and with other stakeholders as necessary; the seeking of policy and legal advice; and undertaking a search and review of the extant literature. The executive members of the ACHSSW will be kept informed of the progress of the Working Party.

Working Party members: Lorna Hallahan – Flinders; Shirley Ledger – CQU; Darren De Warren -CQU; Bob Lonne – UNE; Patrick O'Leary – Griffith; Sony a Stanford – UTas; Magnus Tideman – Latrobe; Rob Townsend – Federation.