

PPA Process

(ONLY FOR BACHELOR OF SW & MASTERS OF SW-PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING STUDENTS)

1. Professional Practice Assessment (PPA)

The Australian Association of Social Workers, [AASW](#) and Charles Sturt University (CSU) support the recognition of students' previous industry experience. The PPA strand is **ONLY applicable** to students enrolled in the **Social Work Field Education 1** subjects (HCS303 or HCS505). It can be completed in place of the **Indirect** placement strand and replaces the original Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

In the PPA strand students complete a series of assessments reflecting on their work experience, address how they meet the AASW practice standards and are developing their professional identity as beginning social workers.

For more information on PPA please refer to the [Social Work Field Education at CSU Handbook](#).

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for the PPA strand students need to have 3 years full time equivalent (FTE) work experience in a relevant context in the last 7 years of which one year FTE has to be in the last 3 years. Where:

- a) "relevant context" is defined as a position that either manages, or directly provides, what social workers consider to be social work or social welfare services to clients of the agency involving activities that the University regards as suitable for a field education placement. These activities would be expected to involve familiarity with and use of a range of social work practice skills and methods, such as assessment, counselling, casework, group work and community work.
- b) if the clients include the staff of the agency, the applicant must occupy a designated counselling position.

To be assessed for eligibility please supply a copy of your resume / curriculum vitae (CV). You need to clearly demonstrate in your CV:

- how long you have held each position from month and year to month and year
- indicate the number of hours worked per week in each position
- provide job descriptions for the relevant periods (see above points a and b)

Workplace Learning Office: HumanServices-WPL@csu.edu.au

Please consult with the Workplace Learning (WPL) office about your eligibility as soon as possible. Please check your eligibility **prior** to session 1 commencing.

3. Registration

Social Work Field Education 1, is a yearlong subject and students need to enrol in both session 1 and session 2 for the PPA strand or Placement Strand. Your assessments are spread throughout the year. Once you are correctly enrolled you will be invited to upload mandatory compliance documents to InPlace and complete an online registration form indicating you are completing the PPA strand.

4. PPA Assessments

Assessment will involve:

- a demonstration of how you have met the outcomes of the first Social Work Field Education 1 subject.
- understanding of the relationship of theory and practice.
- understanding of self,

This will be assessed by:

- a) Completion of assignments requiring you to provide evidence that you have met the standards and performance outcomes for the first placement, including
 - a critical reflection of the kind of social worker you would like to be (referenced)
 - your understanding of the theories informing your practice (referenced)

Due: end of April

- b) PPA presentation to a panel of Social Work Academics

June/July/August

- c) Preparation of worksheets and orientation plan for next placement.

Due one month following the student presentation.

For more information contact:

Workplace Learning Office

02 6933 2784 or email HumanServices-WPL@csu.edu.au

Workplace Learning Website:

<http://arts-ed.csu.edu.au/schools/humss/social-work-and-human-services#horizontalTab2>