

## **FRSA 2019 Conference - New Horizons: Building the future, Paving the way Call for Abstracts**

Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) invites you to submit an abstract to present at the 2019 FRSA National Conference.

The theme this year is ***New Horizons: Building the future, Paving the way***. This year's conference theme caters for an exploration into how we can best deliver our services to our clients with the aim of helping them to enjoy better lives.

Amidst continual reviews of our services and revisions to our funding and reporting requirements, and with further changes afoot regardless of the outcome of this year's national election, our services excel at keeping our focus on the changing needs of children, families and communities. With these new horizons we face, comes exciting opportunities for us to reach out to our clients in more meaningful, innovative, collaborative, coordinated and holistic ways. The constantly changing landscape in regards to what an Australian family is and the associated complexity of family and relationship issues further keeps us on our toes in regards to best responding to the needs of all Australians.

We welcome abstracts that touch on how we do and can continue to pave the way to achieve better outcomes for Australian children, families and communities, including in regards to how we can better use technology, be more innovative, build our workforce capacity, and measure and increase our service delivery success. Together, we will also explore new collaborative ways practitioners, policy-makers and researchers can work together, including in taking a more coordinated prevention and early intervention public health approach.

In preparing and making your submission, you are asked to select and position your abstract within one of the six following streams (identified stages in the family lifecourse):

### **1. The first 1000 days**

Topics covering the period from preconception to birth, the birth of a child, child health and wellbeing and impact on family relations and transitions into parenting.

### **2. Key transition points in the schooling years**

Topics can include school readiness, transitions into and across primary and secondary schools/school years, young people with significant caring responsibilities and transitioning out of school into training, tertiary education or employment.

### **3. Partnering and cohabitation**

Topics can include relationship formation, relationship and marriage education and counselling and developing and maintaining respectful and safe relationships.

### **4. Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**

Topics can include family law services, FDR, parenting after separation, ensuring the best interests and wellbeing of children are paramount, family/Domestic violence, men's behaviour change programs, and the changing nature of family dynamic experienced during and after separation.

### **5. Ageing**

Topics can include grandparents as primary care-giver of children, elder abuse and changing family structures as people stay at home for longer.

### **6. Across the lifecycle**

FRSA strongly encourages abstracts that focus on services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and other vulnerable groups of children, families and communities.

To submit your Abstract, please review the Abstracts Guidelines & Assessment Criteria below which outlines all abstract information and assessment criteria, and submit your Abstract via the button below.

For more information about submitting an abstract, please contact FRSA Senior Policy Officer, Dr Adam Heaton at [policy@frsa.org.au](mailto:policy@frsa.org.au) or (02) 6162 1811.

**All Abstracts must be submitted online by 5.00pm AEST, Friday 24 May 2019**

## **30 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS**

Concurrent sessions are typically 30 minutes in length and can be interactive with the audience or with minimal interaction. Abstracts for a 30 minute presentation must be **between 200 and 400 words in length**.

## **SYMPOSIUM OPTION**

Staying within the Abstract guidelines outlined above, you may team up with three to five others to submit an abstract for a symposium. A symposium comprises a series of presentations organised around a common theme to engage the audience in critical reflection on key issues and questions relevant to the topic area. The duration of a symposium is around 90 minutes to allow time for three to five presenters to share and for discussion among attendees.

We encourage symposiums in which presenters and moderators/discussants represent different perspectives, such as from policymakers, practitioners, and academics.

To submit an abstract for a symposium there is no need for each presenter to submit an abstract. Each symposium requires a primary organiser who is the chair and will serve as the single point of contact in the submission process. Submissions must detail who the primary organiser is and who the other presenters are. The primary organiser must collate and order the presenters' ideas in a way that will best engage attendees, with the symposium abstracts being between **500 and 800 words**.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**3 May 2019** - Call for abstracts closes

**10 May 2019** – Call for abstracts close extended

**24 May 2019** – Call for abstracts close final extension

**End of May 2019** - Notification of acceptance begins

**31 July 2019** - Speaker registrations close – after this date speakers will need to pay the appropriate Early Bird or Standard rate.

**30 August 2019** - Early bird registrations closes.

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Your abstract will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the author demonstrates an understanding of the impact of service delivery on clients and/or service providers in the chosen stage in the family life course
2. The extent to which the presentation will explore how best clients and/or service providers within our sector and/or across sectors can work to 'build the future and pave the way to new horizons'
3. The extent to which the presentation will be engaging and informative

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While we welcome abstracts from everyone, priority in assessing abstracts will be given to individuals and organisations who are FRSA members. For information on becoming an FRSA member please view [our website](#) and/or contact us on (02) 6162 1811 or at [contact@frsa.org.au](mailto:contact@frsa.org.au).

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## **NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE**

Notifications of acceptance will be sent via e-mail to the submitting author from Sunday 2 June 2019. Abstracts submitted for oral presentations that cannot be accommodated within the program will be considered and reviewed for a poster display.

**Accepted abstracts will be published on the FRSA Conference website and in the FRSA 2019 Conference Delegate Handbook.**

## **GENERAL POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

- All abstracts must contain original work of the presenting author(s).
- A presenting author must submit the abstract.
- Abstracts must be submitted online by **5.00pm AEST Friday 24 May 2019**.
- Abstracts will not be accepted via fax, mail, email or USB/CD.
- All required fields on the online abstract submission form must be completed.
- Acceptance of papers will be on the basis of blind peer review (i.e. you name and organisation will not be known to assessors).
- The Conference Managers will not be held responsible for abstract submissions not received via the website or for submission errors caused by Internet service outages, hardware or software delays, power outages or unforeseen events.
- Abstracts **CANNOT** be amended or replaced once submitted. The review process will commence as soon as the abstract is received.
- Ensure that you **DO NOT** leave any abstracts in the Draft stage by the close date, abstracts left in the 'Draft' stage will not be reviewed.

## **OPTION TO SUBMIT A LONGER PAPER FOR THE FRSA E-JOURNAL**

Should your abstract be accepted, you will be invited to submit a longer paper for peer review. Should your longer paper be accepted it will be published in the FRSA 2019 National Conference e-Journal. Previous e-Journals can be seen [here](#).

For technical queries regarding the portal, please get in touch with our Conference Organiser at [frsa@kaigi.com.au](mailto:frsa@kaigi.com.au).

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