

2019 OPEN SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Applications are now open!

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare is delighted to invite you to the 2019 Outcomes, Practice & Evidence Network (OPEN) Symposium.

OPEN is sponsored by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and brings together practice experience with research and evaluation expertise to strengthen our evidence base and improve outcomes for Victorian children and families.

The theme of the 2019 Symposium is *The Voices that Matter*

As we strive to build the evidence base and strengthen practice across child, youth and family services it is vital that the voices that matter- the voices of children, young people and families - are privileged. This year we encourage you to explore how you are doing this successfully across partnerships and programs, as well as sharing the challenges you have tackled and the learning you have gained. We invite you to share your projects and innovations that focus on:

- Children seen and heard
- Collaborations and Partnerships
- Growing Children Strong
- Innovation in Allied Sectors

Applications to present at the Symposium are now open. You are warmly invited to submit a proposal and a short bio online [here](#).

We welcome presentation proposals from across the child, youth and family service system that spark our curiosity and expand our knowledge.

We encourage a range of presentations: **short papers, panels** or **interactive sessions**. Presentations will be 30 minutes including time for Q&A. We also invite **poster presentations**, which give you a chance to present your work visually and generate discussion with your sector colleagues.

2019 Symposium sub-themes are:

○ **Children Seen and Heard**

Abstracts that relate to this theme would focus on:

- the visibility of children in complex systems
- client participation, client voice

○ **Collaborations and Partnerships**

Abstracts that relate to this theme would focus on:

- the visibility of children in integrated services
- how collaborative practice can keep children connected to family and community

○ **Growing Children Strong**

Abstracts that relate to this theme would focus on:

- the visibility of children in Aboriginal-led practice
- building the evidence base for Aboriginal programs and services to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.

○ **Innovation in Allied Sectors**

Abstracts that relate to this theme would focus on:

- the visibility of children in non-traditional services
- working with non-traditional sectors to keep children at the forefront



2019 OPEN SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

How to submit an abstract:

- Applications must be submitted online [here](#) **by 5pm Friday 26 July.**
- Abstracts must be no more than 250 words.
- Speaker biographies no more than 50 words.
- Applications must address the selection criteria.

Selection criteria and review process

All applications to present will be reviewed by representatives from the sector-research Symposium Working Group. Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Clear methodology

Applications should clearly outline the purpose and methodology of the research/ evaluation. **Priority will be given to papers that are presented by community service organisations or where there are partnerships with those organisations.**

2. Relevance

Applications should show a clear purpose for the presentation and clearly indicate how the presentation is of audience / sector interest and is relevant to the conference theme/s.

3. Originality / Innovation

Applications to present should show evidence of original ideas, new information, insights or challenges and/or novel approaches and technologies.

4. Impact and/or use

Applications should articulate how the research/evaluation findings has contributed or will contribute to improved practice and outcomes for children and families and/or policy development.

Applications will be considered as an overall group to ensure a balance of relevance, style, themes, research and practice, covering the breadth of research and practice across our sector e.g. Aboriginal evidence informed practice, rural, regional and metro initiatives.

The OPEN Symposium will be held on

Friday 18 October at the Arts Centre Melbourne

For more information about the Symposium and/or submitting an abstract get in touch with:

Dr Michele Lonsdale

Deputy CEO, Director Policy,
Research and Advocacy

Michele.Lonsdale@cfecfw.asn.au

Direct: 03 9094 3521

Mobile: 0408 083 238

