



## **SARRAH Conference Scientific Refereed Paper Submission Guidelines**

### **Introduction**

Scientific Refereed papers are those whose authors have asked for them to be refereed. They must undergo a referee process before their place can be confirmed on the program. Scientific refereed papers will be clearly identified as such on the Conference Program to assist their authors to obtain academic recognition. Papers will be published on the SARRAH website as part of the conference proceedings as a Scientific Refereed Paper.

### **Referee process**

Where authors have asked for their papers to be refereed, their full papers will be subject to review by two independent referees with expertise in the content area. The review process will be 'blind': that is, details of the author(s) and their affiliation will not be revealed to the referees. Authors of refereed papers will be required to make suggested changes prior to final acceptance of their paper.

### **Content**

The paper should be original (i.e. not published or offered for publication elsewhere). The paper should develop the topics and/or methods outlined in the abstract. Authors are encouraged to include at least one policy recommendation as part of their paper. For instance, this might draw out the implications of the work for practical changes to allied health services on the ground. Authors are encouraged to return a completed pro forma for recommendations (see Attachment A) with their final paper.

### **Structure**

Papers should report original research relevant to rural health. They should be structured as follows: title, background, purpose/aim, methods, results, conclusion and recommendations and must include a structured abstract.

Papers are to be no longer than 2000 words, with a maximum of six tables or illustrations and 24 references (up to 50 for systematic reviews). Papers that are over the word limit will not be accepted.

Scientific refereed papers should:

- be clearly expressed, using correct grammar and spelling;
- show evidence of a literature search, including up-to-date materials, and should reference the material, using the Vancouver system of Referencing (see Attachment B);
- be analytical rather than only descriptive (e.g. of a program undertaken, a service developed etc.);

- refer to the theoretical context or contextual framework in which the study was undertaken, and report on the work in the context of that framework;
- show that the evidence related to the issue discussed has been considered;
- present a coherent discussion of a topic that does not fracture into a number of issues thus clouding the intent of the paper; and
- demonstrate an emphasis on, and/or a relevance to, current health issues in regional, rural and remote Australia.

## **Format**

The paper should be supplied in a Word document, using a standard 12 point font with single line spacing.

Lists should be set as bullets. Full stops are not generally used for abbreviations (instead use: eg ie Mr Dr etc). Use **bold** (not underlining) if you need to emphasise words.

Please **do not** include any author details. **This is extremely important** as the papers will be subject to 'blind' review.

## **Paper submission**

Papers for review and for final submission can be uploaded through the Presentation Portal on the SARRAH conference website.

**Author recommendations pro forma**

Authors are asked to provide at least one recommendation as part of their paper presentation. An effective recommendation will:

- include a clear articulation of the required action;
- identify the person or agency from whom the action is sought;
- make realistic allowance for costs and timelines; and
- lead to improved rural and remote health outcomes.

**Author's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendation 1:**

Who should be responsible for action on your recommendation? eg State government(s), professional association(s), consumers, SARRAH, Australian Government:

\_\_\_\_\_

Text of proposed recommendation:

**Recommendation 2:**

Who should be responsible for action on your recommendation? eg State government(s), professional association(s), consumers, SARRAH, Australian Government:

\_\_\_\_\_

Text of proposed recommendation

Additional recommendations if you wish:

## The Vancouver system of referencing

The Vancouver system of referencing is used in some scientific (particularly) medical literature. References are shown with in-text numbering using superscript Arabic numerals, as shown here which relate to references listed at the end of the document.

In the text, each reference is numbered in the order of appearance. This numeral becomes the unique identifier of the source to which it refers; if the source is referred to again, the identifying numeral is repeated.

More than one identifier can be used at a single reference point to indicate multiple sources: commas (also set as superscript characters) are used to separate the identifiers and there is no space between the comma and the number following it, as shown here.<sup>1,5</sup>

The identifiers should be placed before all punctuation marks except full stops and, whenever possible, immediately after a direct quotation.

In the reference list, the references are numbered according to their identifier in the text and are listed in numeric order. The names of all authors should be included when there are six or less; when there are seven or more, list the first three followed by et al.

Depending on its type, references should be listed in the following form.

### *Journal article*

1. Alderman CP, Cosh DG, Peters PG Thompson CJ. Development of a pilot course in applied pharmacology for nurses working in rural settings. *Australian Journal of Rural Health* 1994; 2: 3-6.

### *Book*

2. Jones KP. *Rural Health and Welfare in Australia*, 3rd edn. Brisbane: Mosby Williams, 1994.

### *Chapter in a book*

3. Reid F. Mobility and safer handling. In: McMahon CA, Harding J, eds. *Knowledge to Care: A Handbook for Care Assistants*. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1994; 53-69.

### *CD-ROM*

4. Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. *Anderson's electronic atlas of haematology* [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2002.

### *Journal article on the Internet*

5. Smith DM. Barriers facing junior doctors in rural practice. *Rural and Remote Health* 2005; 5: 348. [Cited 22 Aug 2008]. Available from URL:  
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=348>