



ERA
Emerging
Researchers in
Ageing
Australia



COTA National Research Awards for Emerging Researchers in Ageing

Background

The prime objective of COTA (Councils on the Ageing) is to promote, improve and protect the circumstances and wellbeing of older people in Australia. Our work draws on views of today's seniors and on concerns for future generations of Australians.

COTA National has a focus on national policy issues. Through extensive research and consultation via its members, COTA National aims to accurately represent the views of seniors throughout Australia.

COTA National develops innovative programs which are delivered throughout Australia by member COTAs. Programs aim to:

- Promote health and wellbeing
- Enable enhanced quality of life
- Promote increased participation of seniors throughout the community

The COTA National Research Awards for Emerging Researchers in Ageing

COTA is offering four Research Awards valued at \$500 each to encourage and support Emerging Researchers in Ageing. These prizes will be awarded for research proposals submitted by postgraduate researchers in ageing. COTA will allocate a policy mentor to each winner. The mentors will have expertise in the policy area that relates most strongly to each student's topic. The selected winners will then work closely with their COTA mentors in developing their final papers.

1. Eligibility, Guidelines and Procedure for Submission of Papers

- To be considered for an award, you must be currently enrolled as a postgraduate student (masters, PhD, Professional Doctorate, MPhil) at an Australian university, and NOT be due to complete your programme before September 2010.

The awards require submission in **two** stages:

a) Stage 1 Submission Guidelines

- You need to prepare and submit a detailed research outline of a proposed paper which emerges from your own PhD research.
- You must be the sole author on the proposed paper
- Proposed research papers should be relevant to one or more of COTAs policy priorities for 2010, as detailed in 5 below. Other areas that are not directly related to these priorities may still be considered, but preference will be given to those with direct relevance to the priorities.
- Proposed research papers must be submitted by email to researchawards@era.edu.au no later than **5 pm on Wednesday 31st March 2010**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- For details of the length and format of the Stage 1 submissions, please see section 4 below.

b) Stage 2 Submission Guidelines

- The proposed papers that are selected for an award must then be developed into a full paper by the same author, in collaboration with a COTA mentor, who will be allocated to each winner by COTA.
- Full papers must be submitted to COTA by **Friday 30th July 2010**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Full papers will be written to COTAs guidelines and may be used as a basis to inform policy development.
- Final papers submitted will be published on the ERA website (www.era.edu.au) and in the COTA online bulletin of ageing research, [Ageing Issues](#)).

2. Copyright and your rights to publication elsewhere

- Please note that the COTA online bulletin is not a refereed journal and so there is no conflict of copyright if you want to publish the same results as part of a journal paper.
- The report for COTAs bulletin will not be in the same format as a refereed paper, so participating in this award should not impact on your future publications.
- Papers based on the same data and results (but not a direct repeat of the same paper) can later be published under the author's name in a refereed journal, with reference to assistance received from the COTA Research Awards for Emerging Researchers in Ageing.

3. Payment of the Awards

- Please note that the awards will not be paid until after submission of the final paper (i.e. on completion of stage 2 of the submission process, the deadline for which is the 31st July 2010).
- COTA will liaise with the winners about payment by cheque or electronic transfer.

4. Format of Stage I proposed research papers

- The research outline submitted at Stage 1I should be a maximum of 2,000 words (note that this is the upper limit; the outline can be shorter), double-spaced, single-sided, and with a separate title page detailing the author, author's affiliations, the title of the paper, and which of the 5 policy areas is most closely aligned with the paper.
- The proposals should include the following sections:
 - Introduction – a brief review of the relevant literature, developing your argument for the importance and relevance of the research to be reported.
 - Methodology – including the source/s of participants, and the manner in which they were recruited, research methods and instruments used.
 - Results – an indication of how the results will be/have been analysed. If analyses have already been conducted, then the actual results can be included in the proposal.
 - Discussion/Conclusion
 - How the results relate to the literature reviewed.
 - How the results may inform policy recommendations, and/or future research.
 - References
- A publication citation standard must be used (e.g., APA, Harvard etc)

5. COTA National Policy Priorities

The COTA National Policy Council has identified a number of high policy priorities for 2010. The following Policy Priorities are intended to guide researchers into understanding COTA's preferred areas of research focus—which should inform its constant push to combat ageism, develop a comprehensive program for active ageing, and to establish policies and practices for decision-making in health and aged care. They include:

1. Sufficient income for all seniors:
 - Development of a cost of retirement living benchmark
 - Pension increases in line with the identified benchmark
2. Affordable & appropriate housing for all older Australians, including people who rent
 - Specific housing programs directed to older people
 - Mandatory implementation of accessible and adaptable housing standards for all new housing
3. Reform of aged care programs in line with the National Aged Care Alliance policy "Leading the Way - Our Vision for Support and Care of Older Australians"
 - An increased emphasis on community care
 - Alternate funding models for aged care
 - Development of approaches to give consumers more control of the care they receive including consumer directed care.

4. Mature aged employment issues.

- Identifying and finding ways to reduce ageism and age discrimination in the workplace
- Training and education needs of seniors
- Other barriers to employment

5. Health Issues

- Developing a national preventative health strategy for seniors.
- Reforming the healthcare system to ensure better access and affordability for seniors
- Developing a national oral health and dental care scheme for seniors
- Older women's health issues

For more information, researchers and research supervisors should explore the COTA National website, in particular the Public Policy area, at <http://www.cotanational.org.au>.

5 January 2010