

## ERA Masterclass 2008 COTA Over 50s' Postgraduate Research Awards

### Background

COTA Over 50s is the national peak seniors' organisation. Its prime objective is to promote, improve and protect the circumstances and wellbeing of older people in Australia, of which there are over six million, not just its members, and particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Through its National Policy Council, the COTA Over 50s' National Policy Office identifies policy priorities, researches them, and publishes findings and policy recommendations. It responds to government requests for inputs to government reviews, inquiries and policy initiatives. Policy statements, research papers and other information are distributed to Parliament, and through regular media releases. Information is also disseminated directly to member organisations and our constituents, and placed on the COTA Over 50s website.

COTA Over 50s works to generate a collaborative spirit between government at all levels, corporate and business organisations, peak bodies, research institutions and community organisations. It also drives initiatives for significant national projects.

COTA Over 50s is strongly committed to partnering with academic and other research institutions with the intention of providing an informed basis for policy development. Their expertise and enthusiasm for collaboration offers research partners the chance to more fully realise goals while allowing COTA Over 50s to achieve its policy objectives.

### COTA Over 50s Research Awards and the ERA Masterclass 2008

COTA Over 50s is offering four Postgraduate Research Awards of \$500 each to encourage and support postgraduate students researching in the field of ageing. These prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Masterclass for Papers of Excellence, which will be selected from submissions made prior to the Masterclass.

## Guidelines and Procedure for Submission of Papers

- To be considered for an award, you must be an official delegate at the ERA Masterclass 2008, to be held at the St Lucia Campus of the University of Queensland on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
- You need to prepare and submit a detailed research outline of a proposed paper which emerges from your own PhD research.
- Proposed research papers should be relevant to one or more of COTAs policy priorities for 2008, as detailed below. Other areas that are not directly related to the nine 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 [L.Peach@UQ.edu.au](mailto:L.Peach@UQ.edu.au) or by fax to 07 3365 7503 no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- The proposed papers that are selected for an award must then be developed into a full paper by the same author by the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008. For this reason, it is expected that submissions will only be made by students who have already collected data that can be reported.
- Full papers will be written to COTAs guidelines and may be used as a basis to inform policy development. Papers can later be published under the author's name in a refereed journal, with reference to the COTA Over 50s Postgraduate Research Award received.
- Papers can also be published in the COTA Over 50s Research Centre section of the COTA Over 50s website.
- Please note that the awards will not be paid until after submission of the completed paper.

## Parameters for submission of proposed research papers

- Maximum of 2,000 words, double-spaced, single-sided, and with a separate title page detailing the author, author's affiliations and title of 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 need for further research.
  - References

- A publication citation standard must be used (e.g., APA, Harvard etc)

#### COTA Over 50s Policy Priorities 2008

The following Policy Priorities are intended to guide researchers into understanding COTA Over 50s' 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.

COTA Over 50s seven policy priorities for 2008 are:

1. Sufficient income for all seniors – linked to modest living
2. Affordable and appropriate housing for all older people, including people who rent
3. Commonwealth HACC Funding increased in real terms, matched by States and Territories, including:
  - A new Commonwealth program combining HACC and packages
  - An emphasis on community care
  - Development of a community care policy.
4. Workforce issues and development—doctors, nurses, allied health and aged care
5. Mature aged workforce issues.
6. Health Issues
  - Developing a national mental health strategy for seniors.
  - Dental review implementation
7. A national approach to end of life planning

For more information, researchers and research supervisors should explore the COTA Over 50s' website, in particular our Public Policy and Publications areas, at [www.cotaover50s.org.au](http://www.cotaover50s.org.au).