

## **ASSERT Accredited Sex Researcher Member**

An Accredited Sex Researcher is a person with the following qualifications and criteria:

### **1. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Must hold a degree from a recognized University in Australia as listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework, register of recognized institutions (<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm>) or from an international institution listed in the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) register:

(<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Individual/Migrant/NationalOfficeofOverseasSkillsRecognitionNOOSR.htm>).

It is preferable that the degree is in an area related to research methodology.

Examples of a sex researcher:

- The researcher is undertaking research in human sexuality as part of a degree with a recognized university or college.
- The researcher is involved in sexuality research that is a medical trial which is approved through appropriate government bodies.
- The researcher is involved in sex research that has been approved through a recognized ethics committee.
- Documentation of professional experience in sex research.

### **2. ASSERT Code of Ethics**

The applicant will have read the ASSERT Code of Ethics.

By signing the certification application form, the applicant agrees to be bound by the ASSERT Code of Ethics.

### **3. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DOCUMENTATION**

This should include at least one of the activities listed in Category 1 and at least one in the activities listed in Category 2.

Category 1:

- 1.1 Sex Research as part of a degree: Undergraduate, Honours, Masters or PHD research project/thesis.
- 1.2 Participation in a sex research team that has been approved through an appropriate ethics committee.
- 1.3 Publication of at least two sex related articles in peer reviewed journals within the last 5 years.
- 1.4 \*Publication of a book related to sex within the last 5 years using evidence-based research

*\* To be reviewed through a case-by-case criterion by the ASSERT accreditation committee.*

Category 2:

- 2.1 Two or more conference presentation and/or posters in a sex research area.
- 2.2 Participation in the teaching of sex research
- 2.3 Has formal sex research supervision at Undergraduate, Honours, Master, or PhD level.

#### **4. ONGOING INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH**

Applicant for Professional Membership Sex Researcher will be required to document an ongoing participation in sex research.

This documentation may include any of the below activities:

- Member of a research team
- Current enrolment in a research degree
- Supervision of a research student
- Individual research

#### **5. DOCUMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SEX RESEARCH**

The following documentation must be submitted to the ASSERT Accreditation Committee:

- 1) Completed application form for ASSERT Accredited Sex Researcher
- 2) Official transcripts of program(s) in which degree(s) and diploma(s) were earned, certified by a Justice of Peace.
- 3) Documentation of Category 1 and 2 Research activities
- 4) A nomination signature from an ASSERT Professional Member, supporting the application or two professional referees supporting the application.
- 5) Copy of current professional insurance or certified copy or letter OF EMPLOYMENT from government or private organisation if covered by indemnity insurance by them.
- 6) Copy Of National Police Check and/or A signed statutory declaration stating that they have no criminal convictions related to their professional conduct or relevant offenses.

- 7) Complete the Permission to display professional details on the ASSERT website. Please note this is at the bottom of the application form.

Upon approval of Accredited Sex Researcher Members Application by ASSERT board, the applicant will then be invited to become a member of ASSERT.

If the applicant is unsuccessful in gaining membership, ASSERT board member will inform them where their application is deficient, and where possible how this can be remedied. Should the applicant wish to withdraw their application, their membership fee will be returned to them.

ASSERT members subcommittee will also indicate if there are unmet criteria and make clear recommendations of how these can be met within a practical time frame.

Participation in the above processes with relevant documentation ensures ongoing membership of ASSERT as an Accredited Sex Researcher.

## **6. MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL STATUS AS A SEX RESEARCHER**

- To maintain Accredited Sex Researcher Membership of ASSERT, members must document their **annual four** research meetings, conference papers and posters they have presented, journal articles they have had published, sexuality books they have published.
- To retain the ASSERT Accredited Sex Researcher status, the member must pay membership on an annual basis and be a practicing sex researcher.
- If membership lapses accreditation status will also lapse.

Once accredited, the Sex Researcher will establish ongoing consultations or collaborations ideally with other ASSERT accredited Sex Researchers. Such consultations may also be with a small peer or professional research group focused on sex research.

Consultations are recommended to be on a **quarterly** basis. The purpose of such consultations would be to provide relevant specialist support, to maintain a high standard of knowledge, competencies, self-awareness, and rigor in research. Accredited Sex Researcher members will be expected to have at least one paper published in a recognised journal or a conference presentation at national or international level every three years.

Participation in the above processes with relevant documentation ensures ongoing membership of ASSERT as a Sex Researcher.

## **7. ACCREDITED SEX RESEARCHER - SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The accreditation committee of ASSERT recognizes that there are many members with extensive experience in sex research who have not had the opportunity of a formal qualification in the area. The ASSERT accreditation committee will consider these applications individually under 'special circumstances category'. Special circumstances could include specialization in one or limited areas of sex research.

The ASSERT Accreditation Committee will review the documentation of research and professional experience.

To retain the ASSERT Accredited Sex Researcher status, the member must pay membership on an annual basis and be a practicing sex researcher.

If membership lapses accreditation status will also lapse.