

Position Description – Senior Lecturer in Social Work

Updated 10 July 2026

POSITION DETAILS

College	College of Human Sciences and Culture
Organisational Unit	Social Work
Supervisor	Teaching Program Director (or Delegate)
Classification	Academic Teaching & Research (Balanced) Level C
Employment Type	Continuing, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY

The Senior Lecturer in Social Work contributes to excellence in teaching, research, engagement, and service, supporting the University's commitment to socially responsive education, impactful research, and meaningful community engagement. The position is suited to academics with expertise in social work fields that address issues affecting individuals, families, communities, and systems, including those shaped by inequality, social change, social policy, and complex human service environments. The position contributes to the design, delivery, and continuous improvement of undergraduate and postgraduate programs through high-quality teaching, curriculum development, authentic assessment, and engagement in curriculum review, accreditation, quality assurance, and professional standards processes relevant to Social Work education.

A key focus of the role is leading high-quality field education and student placement experiences through strong engagement with industry, community organisations, government agencies, and professional bodies. The Senior Lecturer contributes to developing and sustaining placement networks and partnerships that enhance student learning, professional development, and workforce readiness, while strengthening connections between the discipline and the broader social work sector.

The Senior Lecturer maintains an active and impactful program of research that advances knowledge and informs practice in human services. The role also supports student success, collegiality, and a culture of continuous improvement through active participation in academic leadership, mentoring, and service activities.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES

All staff at Flinders are responsible for understanding their obligations and responsibilities as set out in the University's code of conduct and are expected to:

- demonstrate commitment to the University's values of Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Excellence and the underlying ethos of being Student Centred;
- contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the team or work unit in order to meet the University's objectives. This includes demonstrating appropriate and professional workplace behaviours, providing assistance to team members if required and undertaking other key responsibilities or activities as directed by one's supervisor;
- promote and support an inclusive workplace culture which values diversity and embraces the principles of equal opportunity;
- perform their responsibilities in a manner that reflects and responds to continuous improvement; and
- familiarise themselves and comply with the University's Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity policies.

Flinders University is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, free from gender-based violence. Appointment to this role is conditional on the completion of required pre-employment

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checks and declarations, each of which must be satisfactory to the University. This includes a Gender-Based Violence declaration, in accordance with the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (2025), and a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check.

In addition, it is a requirement of this position that the incumbent maintain a current Working With Children Check which is satisfactory to the University in accordance with the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA).

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Lecturer in Social Work is accountable for:

- Providing leadership in teaching, learning, and curriculum development across undergraduate and postgraduate Social Work programs.
- Maintaining a strong and productive program of research, engagement, and knowledge translation through publication in high-quality scholarly outlets, success in securing research funding, participation in research initiatives, and demonstrated impact on policy, practice, and communities.
- Contributing academic leadership within the discipline through leadership of courses, programs, field education, and strategic initiatives, while advancing Social Work through professional, scholarly, and community engagement.
- Leading innovative, inclusive, and critically informed approaches to teaching and learning that enhance student success, professional identity formation, and readiness for contemporary social work practice.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of a sustained program of research, fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations, mentoring colleagues and early career researchers, and supervising Honours and Higher Degree Research candidates to completion.
- Leading and/or undertaking accreditation activities, quality assurance, curriculum review, field education oversight, and professional standards processes relevant to Social Work education, and contributing to the ongoing development of the discipline.
- Providing leadership in field education and placement partnerships, supporting the quality, sustainability, and growth of student placement opportunities and strengthening engagement with the social work and human services sectors.
- Developing, sustaining, and extending partnerships with community organisations, government agencies, industry, professional bodies, placement providers, and international collaborators that strengthen teaching, research, field education, and community impact.
- Contributing to a collegial, inclusive, and high-performing academic culture through mentoring, supervision, capacity building, and effective collaboration across teams and disciplines.
- Undertaking out-of-hours work and rural, interstate, or international travel where required as well as other duties consistent with the classification and level of the position as assigned by the Teaching Program Director and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in Social Work or a closely related discipline, or an equivalent qualification.
- Eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW).
- Demonstrated ability to lead the design, delivery, and continuous improvement of undergraduate and postgraduate Social Work curricula.
- Capacity to implement innovative, inclusive, and evidence-informed teaching practices that enhance student learning, engagement, retention, and graduate outcomes.
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to field education and placement programs, supporting high-quality practice learning experiences and strong engagement with placement partners.
- Demonstrated capacity to maintain an active and impactful program of research, including evidence of high-quality scholarly outputs, success in securing research funding, and participation in collaborative research initiatives.

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- Experience supervising Honours and Higher Degree Research candidates and contributing to the development of research capacity within the discipline.
- Demonstrated ability to provide academic leadership through course, program, field education, or other discipline-related responsibilities.
- Capacity to contribute to curriculum review, accreditation, quality assurance, and professional standards processes.
- Ability to mentor colleagues, support team development, and contribute to a collegial, inclusive, and high-performing academic culture.
- Capacity to develop and maintain placement networks and industry engagement activities that support student learning, workforce development, and community impact.
- Highly developed interpersonal, communication, and relationship-building skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively across academic, professional, community, and industry settings.
- Ability to work effectively within interdisciplinary, cross-sector, and culturally diverse environments.
- Demonstrated commitment to the values and ethics of the Social Work profession, including social justice, human rights, equity, diversity, decolonisation, and anti-racism.