

July 2007.1 version

ASSERT NATIONAL

Professional Member - Sexuality Educator

A sexuality educator is a person with the following qualifications and characteristics.

The applicant must provide documentation to show competency in each of the three qualification areas listed below.

1. Professional qualification/s

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 important that the institution or university have a recognized code of ethics to which the candidate is bound. The ethics statement should be accessible to the accreditation committee.

The candidate needs to have completed a minimum of 30 hours of training in education and teaching methodology specific to teaching sexuality education.

It is preferable that the degree is in an area related to sexuality and sexual health. The degree will involve a minimum of 60 hours (6 credit point equivalent) of course content in sexuality and sexual health related content.

The content should include at least 80% of the following core areas:

- An overview of the discipline of sexology, research and literature
- Sexual anatomy and physiology, and the sexual response cycle
- Developmental sexuality and sexual health across the lifespan, from a psychosocial-biological perspective
- Dynamics of interpersonal relationships
- Sexual pleasure, sexual function and dysfunction and factors affecting it - biological and psychosocial
- Gender-related issues including sexual orientation and gender identities
- Socio-cultural and spiritual factors in sexual values and behaviour
- Medical factors that may influence sexuality including illness, disability, drugs, pregnancy, pregnancy termination, contraception and fertility
- Sexually transmitted infections and safer sex practices
- Sexual rights and reproductive rights.

- Sexual abuse and laws related to sexuality/forensic sexology
- Education and teaching methodology specific to teaching sexuality education.

2. ASSERT National Code of Ethics

The applicant will have read the ASSERT National Code of Ethics. By signing the certification application form, the applicant agrees to be bound by the ASSERT National Code of Ethics.

3. Professional training documentation for sexuality education

At least 60 hours of supervised or collaborative experience as a Sexuality Educator. This paid or volunteer experience may have been obtained prior to or following the receipt of the highest degree earned.

The following would be considered examples of acceptable supervised training:

- Tutor, lecturer or coordinator of a supervised teaching unit offered as part of a degree program in sexology, sexual health, health promotion, education, social work or other related degree program in a university. This teaching may be at undergraduate or graduate level and will have been supervised by an ASSERT National accredited Sexuality Educator or equivalent. Student teaching practicum semesters, as part of a sexology degree, or degree related to human sexuality, taught and supervised by an ASSERT National accredited sexuality educator or equivalent may also be considered supervised training.
- Collaborative professional teaching in the field of human sexuality and reproductive health, such as Family Planning Education Teams, university teaching work in sexuality, supervised high school teaching and training, youth work, religious institutions or related health or outreach agency.
- Collaborative professional teaching or development of teaching programs in the field of human sexuality and reproductive health in a hospital or private medical institution such as a hospital, rehabilitation center or nursing home.

4. Professional Member - Sexuality Educator - Special Circumstances

The accreditation committee of ASSERT National recognizes that there are many members with extensive experience in sexuality education who have not had the opportunity of a formal qualification in the area. The committee will consider these applications individually under this 'special circumstances category'.

Special circumstances could include specialization in one or limited areas of sexuality education.

The ASSERT National Accreditation Committee will review the documentation of education and work experience of the applicant.

International applicants must show evidence of equivalent training and professional experience.

Documentation:

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

1. Completed formal application for ASSERT National Sexuality Educator, signed and dated
2. Official transcripts of program(s) in which degree(s) and diploma(s) were earned.
3. Official documentation of 60 hours of education in the designated core areas of human sexuality. Documentation must include the dates, sponsors, faculty, and content of the educational experience, signed by at least one supervisor/faculty member, certificates of attendance, in-service program or continuing education certificates, or other credible evidence.
4. Official documentation of 30 hours sexuality teaching education.
5. Official documentation of 60 hours of professional supervision experience. Documentation must include dates, length of teaching, teaching context, names of supervisors or collaborative educators, evidence of practical academic supervision in a teaching, human sexuality or related discipline educational program, certificates, letters of recommendation, specifically outlining teaching abilities and length of supervised teaching experience, or other credible evidence. This documentation must be separate from documentary evidence of educational content received
- 5 Statement of philosophy of sexuality education.
6. A nomination signature from an ASSERT National Sexuality Educator, supporting the application
7. Copy of current professional insurance.
8. The processing fee of \$50.00 AUD.

5. Membership

Upon approval of the ASSERT National Sexuality Educator Accreditation Committee, the successful applicant will receive a certificate in recognition of having met the ASSERT National requirements for certification in the area of sexuality education. This certificate will be subject to renewal every 3 years. Membership in ASSERT National must be maintained on an annual basis to retain the ASSERT National Sexuality Educator certification status. If membership lapses, certification will also lapse.

6. Professional Membership - Special Circumstances Category

For those applicants being considered under the Special Circumstances Category, the ASSERT National Accreditation Committee will clearly indicate where the applicant has met the required criteria for Sexuality Educator. The ASSERT National Committee will also indicate where there are unmet criteria and make clear recommendations of how these can be met within a practical time frame and with the support from ASSERT National at the local, state or national levels.

7. Maintaining professional standards as a Sexuality Educator

Once accredited, the Sexuality Educator will establish ongoing educational consultations or collaborations ideally with an ASSERT National accredited Sexuality Educator or equivalent. Such consultations may also be with a small peer group focused on sexuality education topics and/or methodology depending on the resources available. Such consultations would be on a bi-monthly basis or more frequently, as the need arises.

The purpose of such consultations is to provide relevant specialist support to maintain a high standard of knowledge, competencies and self-awareness in the context and content of sexuality education. The Sexuality Educator needs to keep informed of new developments in sexuality education in generally, and specifically in their area of expertise. Ethical issues and standards need to be considered and maintained.

The professional member will also be expected to document participation in professional activities such as workshops, conferences, seminars for at least 10 hours per year.

The accredited Sexuality Educator will make a reasonable effort to attend ASSERT National conferences and meetings as well as their state organised continuing education program.

Participation in the above processes with relevant documentation ensures ongoing membership of ASSERT National as a Sexuality Educator.