



The Royal Societies of Australia

Supporting a National Culture of Creativity and Knowledge
Science, Medicine, Economics, Philosophy and the Arts

ACN: 126 868 586

PRECONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – OPINION PIECES – *THE MANDARIN*

Background

In November 2023 the Royal Societies of Australia (RSA), a collective of the state-based Royal Societies, resolved to adopt a project to develop a platform of public policy measures conducive to allowing Australians to thrive. It will do this by tracing cause-and-effect in the conditions that lead to well-being and conversely to disease, ill health and frustrated potential.

The Mandarin

The Mandarin online newsletter of public administration has agreed to publish articles on this theme outside its paywall. By the end of 2024, some 20 articles had appeared. They are being aggregated on its website <https://www.themandarin.com.au/tag/prevention-or-patch-up/>

Publication of material in this format is only one limb of the “Preconditions of well-being” project, but it is an important limb because it will identify some common themes such as underfunding of public goods, the fragility of ‘individual responsibility’ as the foundation for public health and the shortage of forums for dialogue across disciplinary, sectoral and jurisdictional boundaries.

Guest authors

RSA invites people with expert knowledge in a field related to public health and well-being to draft an opinion piece in this series, as ‘guest authors’. Guest authors do not need to be members of one of the Royal Societies although membership is encouraged. Articles from research students at any level from honours upwards, such as by way of showcasing their research findings, will be welcome. All articles will be edited by a Review Panel to confirm their validity and will be copyedited.

At the beginning of 2025, articles are appearing fortnightly but the RSA aspires to be able to increase the frequency to weekly by feeding material from a number of guest authors. Guest authors may contribute a single article or a series.

Style

Articles are intended to be written in the style of Wikipedia: crisply worded summaries of knowledge, written in a matter-of-fact, non-partisan, non-polemic manner of expression, with references to source materials, as a guide to the intended audience – the ‘policy community’ on the topic discussed. ‘Policy community’ embraces parliamentarians, senior officers and policy analysts in the national or state public services, think tanks and policy officers in peak bodies and business. The articles are not intended to focus on individual self-help. (However, an author wanting to write in that mode is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss).

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www.scienceaustralia.org.au/about/rsa-projects-initiatives/pre-conditions-of-well-being/

The subjects covered are not following any predetermined order.

Articles should be grounded in authoritative scholarship, but are not academic in style. References should be kept to a minimum. *The Mandarin* editors will accept a small number of hot links to external sources and occasional endnotes, but endnotes in particular should be kept to a minimum.

Articles should be between about 750 and 1500 words. A small number of side headings is permitted. All articles should end with a section titled 'Implications for policy' containing policy recommendations to the policy community.

Authors can supply a photograph that illustrates their article, although *The Mandarin* usually provides its own.

Guest authors should supply a small bio of one or two sentences and a headshot photograph. Any potential conflict of interest should be declared.

Peer review

The articles published in *The Mandarin* are not deemed to have been peer reviewed. Authors who would like to publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal are invited to submit in a scholarly style for volume 130 of the *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Queensland*, <https://www.royalsocietyqld.org/proceedings-130/>. Articles so submitted will be subject to single blind peer review in the normal manner and published online open access as soon as they have been accepted by the Editor and typeset. There are no author charges for volume 130 and no charge for public access. Volume 130 will accept articles in a range of formats including Short Communications and Historical Reviews as well as research articles containing original experimental data and abstracts of student dissertations at any level.

Further information

Please contact the undersigned for further information.

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