



Guidelines for Referees

1. The Academy of the Social Sciences (ASSA) is an elected body of social scientists in Australia who have achieved distinction in one or more branches of the social sciences. Such distinction is not restricted to social scientists holding academic posts and includes practitioners who have made a distinguished contribution to public policy or society. Fellows are recognised nationally and internationally for their very high level of distinction.
2. ASSA is devoted to promoting excellence in, and encouraging the advancement of, the social sciences in Australia. Election of Fellows to the Academy takes place once a year, normally in September.
3. All nominations for election to Fellowship are placed before the ASSA Membership Committee (henceforth the Committee) which meets once a year to consider nominations and select candidates for election by a general ballot of Academy Fellows. Referees are invited to assist the Committee in this assessment.
4. The Committee is primarily concerned with establishing whether the nominee can be deemed to have achieved distinction in one or more branches of the social sciences and be a strong candidate for election to the Academy.
5. There is no limit on the number of new Fellows elected each year. Typically the number of nominations greatly exceeds the number finally elected. The Committee welcomes your assistance in assessing the distinction demonstrated by the nominee. Evidence of appointments held by the nominee and your critical comment on their achievements, including major publications, is of particular value in assessments. In framing your response, you should take time to consider and present reasons why you think the nominee's achievements are worthy of recognition.
6. Referees may wish to mention any career interruptions, gaps or diversions that may have affected the publication output of the candidate. In addition, you may wish to acknowledge any significant research that may appear in the candidate's publication record as a result of multi-disciplinary work.
7. Reports from referees are reviewed only by the relevant Panel Committee and the Membership Committee, are kept in the strictest confidence, and are destroyed following the Committee's deliberations.
8. The Membership Committee consists of the President, the four Panel Committee Chairs, four other Fellows of the Academy and the Executive Director.

