**INFORMATION SHEET 1**

**Selection Process for the Australia Awards Scholarships (Masters) – 2018 Intake**

The selection process for Australia Awards Scholarships applicants at the Masters level is set out below:

1. The Department of Public Serviceand Administration, South Africa (Pretoria)to be the Coordinating Authority (CA) for the scholarships and arrange for dissemination of information in South Africafrom **1 September 2016 – 15 December 2016.**  (e.g. through direct communication with relevant ministries and parastatals). The Australian Government will also disseminate information about the Australia Awards on offer more generally, including through our program partners in South Africato ensure equitable access to information.
2. A format for applications is attached, and incorporates the use of a Work Plan on Return (WPR) to assist awardees consider ways to effectively apply their knowledge and skills on return and to assist with monitoring and evaluationfor the effectiveness of the Australia Awards in Africa program. Application forms and other related documents can also be found on the relevant country page on the website: <http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org/african-countries/southafrica/awards/masters-awards/>
3. The CA will consider means of disseminating award information to women and applicants with disability for equitable access to Australia Awards. Applications from candidates working outside capital cities (county or district level) are also encouraged. Should the CA feel that the selection criteria need to be adjusted in order to promote more equitable access to the Australia Awards in Africa, we would welcome that advice.
4. All applications will be submitted either electronically or in hard copy as per instructions on the website ([www.australiaawardsafrica.org](http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org)) to the Managing Contractor for the Australia Awards in Africa. **Closing date for applications is 15 December 2016**.
5. The Australian Government will provide the CA with a list of all public sector applicants from South Africain two stages: at the end of the short listing process (April 2017) and at the end of the interview process (June 2017), in order that the CA can confirm that the applicants have complied with country specific Human Resource Development/Training plans.
6. The CA is requested to provide comments in writing within two weeks of receipt of the list. If no response is received from the CA to the lists of applicants the Australian Government will finalise the respective stages of shortlisting and selection on the assumption no changes are required.
7. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in person by an independent selection committee comprising representatives from the Australian Government, Australia Awards Alumni and an independent technical expert. Adjustment support will be provided to candidates where needed. In addition, a representative of the CA will be invited to participate in the interviews as a Country Advisor**\*** to the panel in the spirit of promoting an equitable, transparent and accountable selection process. We envisage interviews being conducted in May 2017.
8. Partner governments will be advised of final outcomes of the selection process in June 2017. A final list of all applicants that have accepted the Award will also be provided to the CA prior to pre-departure briefings to be held in October2017.
9. Selected Awardees will be notified in July 2017and required to submit University placement documentation, disability adjustment requirements (if required) and visa applications to theManagingContractor by no later than 12August 2017.
10. A pre-departure briefing to prepare the selected candidates for living and studying in Australia will take place in October2017. The CA will be invited to send a representative to participate in this briefing.
11. Selected Awardees will begin to depart in January 2018to commence their studies in Australia.

**\***The role of the Country Advisor is to be a resource person to the interview panel. In carrying out this responsibility, the Advisor may provide the policy context of the candidates in relation to the country priority sectors, human resource development and training plans, including providing an overview of other policies e.g. gender, disability, rural development and other coordination and implementation imperatives.