

# Write the Docs Australia 2019 - Call for Proposals

This is the Call for Proposals for Write the Docs Day Australia 2019.

More information can be found on the full CFP site:

<http://www.writethedocs.org/conf/australia/2019/cfp>

\*Required

Email address \*

[cameron.shorter@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.shorter@gmail.com)

Name \*

Cameron Shorter

TBD: Who would like to co-present with me?

Talk Title \*

TheGoodDocsProject - creating open templates and best-practice writing guides for software documentation

Talk Type \*

Writing/Doc fixit project

Talk Abstract \*

Tell us about your talk. Submitting a single paragraph doesn't give us much to go on, but a wall of text does not really help either.

Surprisingly, the world doesn't have an open, best-practices suite of writing templates; one which could be used by open-source projects. That's not right. A bunch of us documentarians and open-source community members have decided to create them, and have banded together under the banner of TheGoodDocsProject. We want to collate the collective wisdom of our communities into templates, writing instructions and background theory. We have ideas but we still have a lot to work out and we want your help.

In this hands-on workshop we will present a quick overview of current thinking and the range of challenges we are facing. We will then break out into topic working groups to brainstorm ideas for solutions and content for different doc types. We need to source, develop, test and refine:

- A template, embedded with concise writing instructions.
- Example(s).

- Deeper practical tips, explanations and justifications for approaches - for use by information architects, reviewers, and seasoned Documentarians.
- Collated background theory.

At the end we will come back together to present findings to the group and discuss how ideas can be brought back into TheGoodDocsProject.

## Talk Abstract2 \*

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- Example(s).
- Deeper practical tips, explanations and justifications for approaches - for use by information architects, reviewers, and seasoned Documentarians.
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At the end we will come back together to present findings to the group and discuss how ideas can be brought back into TheGoodDocsProject.

We have started on a Quickstarts. Depending on workshop numbers, we'd also like to tackle:

- Tutorials,
- Howto Guides,
- Explanations, and
- References.

We may find these naturally break into sub-categories.

Your answer

## Other Information

Any other information that might be interesting for us to know about you? Give a lightning talk last year, speak at a WTD meetup, or anything else interesting? Add it here.

Your answer

TheGoodDocsProject website: <https://thegooddocsproject.dev/>

I've presented on variants of this idea at WriteTheDocs meetups.

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2019/02/inspiring-techies-to-become-great.html>

## Twitter Handle

Provides context of who you are and what you do. This will be linked from your speaker info, if provided.

[@cameronshorter](#)

## Personal Website

Provides context of who you are and what you do. This will be linked from your speaker info, if provided.

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com>

## Code Of Conduct \*

Yes, I've read the Code of Conduct (<http://www.writethedocs.org/code-of-conduct/>)

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## Talk 2: Trust-ocracy for communication

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\*Required

## Email address \*

[cameron.shorter@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.shorter@gmail.com)

## Name \*

[Cameron Shorter](#)

## Talk Title \*

Trust-ocracy for communication

## Talk Type \*

30 minutes presentation

## Talk Abstract \*

Tell us about your talk. Submitting a single paragraph doesn't give us much to go on, but a wall of text does not really help either.

Surprisingly, collaborative human-centred volunteer communities often out-perform closed or centrally controlled initiatives. Compassion, selflessness and trust can be inspirational, attract collaborators and have tangible business benefits.

Communication is central to the collaborative approach; and empathic communication helps amplify the sustainability, quality, currency, and breadth of documentation.

In this talk I'll draw from years of helping techies and power users to write docs in open source projects. I'll reference research in complexity theory, architectural patterns, human psychology, working with episodic volunteers, and success factors within open source communities.

The documentarian skillset is central to this conversation, and there is a hero-role for all of us in this story.

## Other Information

Any other information that might be interesting for us to know about you? Give a lightning talk last year, speak at a WTD meetup, or anything else interesting? Add it here.

Prior material I'll draw upon:

\* Inspiring techies to become great writers:

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2019/02/inspiring-techies-to-become-great.html>

\* The business case for Open:

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2018/10/the-open-business-business-case.html>

\* TheGoodDocsProject: <https://thegooddocsproject.dev/>

\* ... and a bit more

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[@cameronshorter](#)

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