Overview
The purpose of the proposal is to determine the focus and content of your policy paper, which you will complete as part of the Research Fellowship component of the Global Voices Scholarship Program. Your proposal cannot exceed 500 words.

Your policy paper must include specific recommendations for domestic policy implementation that are realistic and achievable. While we are looking for innovative policy solutions based on ideas that demonstrate imagination and cutting-edge research, you should consider what can be achieved within the research timelines and with available resources.

Your final paper will be approximately 2,500 words. If your final version is of high enough standard, it will be published on our online journal. You will also be supported to submit altered versions of your research to media organisations and think tanks for further publication, most often in the form of editorial or feature articles.

Context
The World Health Organisation (WHO) is responsible for managing global health policy and monitoring trends and data related to health, disease and development. The World Health Assembly (WHA) acts as the decision-making body of the Organisation and takes place annually in Geneva. The Assembly determines the policies of the Organisation, appoints the Director-General, supervises financial policy and approves program budgets. We recommend you review the 2018 agenda and the priorities of the WHA on their website: https://www.who.int/world-health-assembly/seventy-first

Research Prompts
We have split up each priority into a research area and provided prompts and questions for each. You do not need to address the prompts directly, but your proposal must address one of the research areas.

Global Shortages of and Universal Access to Medicines

1. The price of new and old medicines is soaring (Access to Medicines Index.) Poor and rich countries are struggling to pay for medicines. Propose domestic policy measures Australia could implement to ensure equitable access to high quality and essential medicines and other medical technologies.
II. A global health response is needed to antimicrobial resistance (WHO). As bacterial infections grow more resistant to antibiotics, more research is needed and fewer new antibiotics are being approved. Discuss new ideas and solutions that could be investigated in Australia, in response to antimicrobial resistance.

III. “In high-income countries services are often stand-alone and not integrated. People are forced to attend multiple appointments at different locations, which are costly and add to the burden on users as well as caregivers, and on health and welfare budgets.” (WHO) What innovative strategies could be put in place to relieve these burdens in Australia?

Preparedness to respond to health and environmental impacts of climate change

I. Average temperatures across Australia have increased. As a result, frequency and duration of heatwaves have also increased leading to higher related heat-related illnesses (Doctors for the Environment Australia.) Consider possible policy solutions for Australia to ensure there is emergency preparedness and management for these heightened risks.

II. Australia is neighboured by small island states who are most at risk of climate change due to storm surges and sea-level rise (Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Patricia Espinosa.) The effects increase the risks of food and water borne diseases. Develop a draft action plan that Australia could use in supporting our neighbouring small island states to implement health resilience to climate change.

III. A report by the Director General in 2017 has called for the development of a five-year global strategic plan to improve public health preparedness and responsiveness. Consider possible recommendations supporting Australia’s role in the development and implementation of this plan.

Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

I. A WHO global high-level commission has been established to promote health, and prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs.) Assess Australia’s current national development plan on NCDs, especially in specific population groups, and provide recommendations for improvement.

II. A challenge to addressing NCDs in Australia is the need to implement a multi-sector intervention response. To improve treatment delivery a more cohesive system is needed to jointly achieve desired policy outcomes. How could this be approached in Australia?

Women, children and adolescent health

I. Children and adolescents who are exposed to violence are more likely to smoke, misuse alcohol and drugs, and engage in high-risk sexual behaviours. They are also more likely to attempt suicide and endure a range of illnesses later in their life (Conversation.) Discuss current and prospective strategies to minimize risk and assist children who have experienced violence move from ‘surviving’ to ‘thriving’.

II. Nearly a quarter of young Australians aged 12-25 have concerns relating to their mental health. In 2009 the financial cost of mental illness in this cohort was $10.6 billion (Access Economics.) Propose domestic policy measures that could be implemented to help reduce this burden of disease and improve outcomes for young Australians’ mental health.

Assistive digital technologies and the rise of eHealth
I. Digital technologies are becoming an important resource for health services delivery and public health. Mobile wireless technologies are particularly relevant, due to their ease of use, broad reach and wide acceptance (WHO.) Discuss how Australia could best harness the opportunities that digital health technologies create to address public health concerns and outline the risks involved in the rise of these technologies.

II. Over the past 10 years, rather than making inroads into reducing the number of 15-24 year old lives lost to suicide in Australia, there have instead been small but gradual increases in suicide rates (Orygen.) How can Australia innovate and develop digital health technologies to improve outcomes and support reductions in suicide rates for young people?

Proposal Structure
Your proposal must include:

- Context and background, including a top-line review of the existing research and commentary.
- Your research aims.
- Your proposed recommendations.

Proposed Recommendations

- Provide specific, realistic, and achievable policy recommendations. You should aim to write these using SMART criteria.
- Recommendations should outline the mechanism responsible for implementing, funding, and evaluating the success of the policy recommendation. It is not always the same organization who does all three of these. For example, many Federal Departments provide funding to the ABS to conduct research into a specific area, which is then used and evaluated by another organisation.
- These must relate specifically to Australia, but should also consider the global implications of their implementation.