NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – NCFH BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from experienced and skilled individuals with demonstrated creative and progressive leadership to join the NCFH Board. We are currently seeking up to three new Board members and welcome applications from people with strong agriculture industry and sector experience, knowledge, and leadership. In particular, we are interested in candidates who bring political and/or industry engagement experience outside of Victoria, have experience leading organisational growth within the agricultural sector, and possess skills in policy and advocacy. We strongly encourage applications from people living, working, or with strong farming networks in Western Australia and Tasmania, Queensland, or remote farming communities more broadly.

About us

The NCFH were founded in 2008 as a partnership between Western District Health Service (WDHS) and Deakin University to address the heightened risks to health, wellbeing and safety experienced by Australians who live and work in farming communities.

Based in the heart of an agricultural community, Hamiton (S.W. Victoria), the NCFH engages in a unique integrated and multidisciplinary approach to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of Australian farmers, farm workers, farming families and agriculture-dependent communities.

Our mission—"guided by evidence, we influence positive change for health, wellbeing and safety in agriculture, fostering transformative action on farms"—is supported by the key strategic pillars of Evidence, Influence and Action. The NCFH have a proven capacity to deliver health services, education and training, translational research and stakeholder engagement—in partnership with community, industry, rural organisations and academia.

The work of the NCFH Board is supported by an Advisory Group, ensuring meaningful involvement from a diverse group of farmers and key stakeholders.

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Find us on

in partnership with wdhs Western District Health Service DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Strategic priorities

The NCFH has a growth-focused strategic plan for the 2023-2028 period, including:

1. Evidence
    - Collect, interpret and translate evidence to drive change
    - Expand innovative research in response to need
    - Evaluate impact

2. Influence
    - Use our expertise to influence policy, practice and culture
    - Target, tailor and scale professional development, secondary and tertiary education

3. Action
    - Empower the farming community to foster transformation on farms
    - Develop collaborations and delivery models to increase access to health programs

About the Board

The NCFH Board represents the partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University.

Organisational and Board Structure

The NCFH currently employees 19 staff—engaging with project-based contractors and partnering with health, agricultural, academic, government and community organisations to extend our reach and build capacity across rural Australia.

Click on the following links to find out more about our current Board, Advisory Group, Patrons and Staff.

The NCFH Board has capacity for up to 9 members and includes representatives with diverse experiences from Deakin University, Western District Health Service (WDHS) and key specialist appointments. Please refer to the attached Terms of Reference (ToR) for more details.

Financial Accountability and Risk

As NCFH is not a separate legal entity, the financial, legal and governance risks associated with its operations are borne by WDHS and, where applicable, Deakin University. Accordingly, NCFH Board members have a narrower scope of fiduciary and financial responsibilities than directors of an independent incorporated organisation. As such, Board members are still expected to exercise due care and diligence and to consider the potential financial, operational and reputational impacts of their decisions and recommendations on WDHS and Deakin University, recognising that these organisations ultimately bear responsibility for associated risks and obligations.

Role of a Board Member

This list provides a comprehensive outline of a board members roles and responsibilities for overseeing a partnership like the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH). Here are a few key points that stand out in terms of responsibilities:

1. **Leadership and Strategic Direction**: Setting strategic direction of NCFH's overall initiatives (research, education, and service delivery) and NCFH's market expansion and industry profile.
2. **Contributing Expertise**: Leveraging specialist skills and experience to actively contribute to decision-making processes.
3. **Collaborating and Funding**: Actively seeking new partnerships and funding opportunities to ensure sustainable national growth.
4. **Measuring Outcomes**: Reviewing the Centre's performance outcomes in relation to the NCFH Strategic Plan.
5. **Ambassadorship and Representation**: Supporting the development of new partnerships and continued strengthening of existing partnerships.
6. **Review and Continuous Improvement**: Involvement in performance evaluation processes for the board, ensuring a commitment to continuous improvement.

This structure shows how critical the board's role is in shaping the NCFH's future direction, funding opportunities, and strategic initiatives. The centre is looking for suitable candidates to this type of leadership and advisory role.

Term and Remuneration

NCFH board members are appointed for a three-year (3) term, with the option for reappointment. A maximum of two reappointments is allowed, capping the total term at nine (9) years. Representatives from Western District Health Service and Deakin University will serve in these roles without remuneration. Specialist appointees may be compensated for meeting attendance, out-of-session events, and travel expenses where Board obligations hinder their ability to earn an income.

The EOI Process

Please submit your EOI, along with your CV, via email to the NCFH Board and Advisory Group Administrator, Nicole Hickey, Nicole.Hickey@wdhs.net Expressions of Interest will close on Sunday 30th August, 2026. All Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be handled confidentially by the NCFH Board. The Board Chair and selected members of the Board may wish to talk to people expressing interest, and final decisions will be made by the full Board. All people participating in this process will be advised of outcomes. Successful appointments will commence with the first Board meeting scheduled for November 2026 (date and location TBC).