

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

ROLE DESCRIPTION – FARMER, INDUSTRY AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

Updated: February 2018

OVERVIEW:

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) is a partnership between Western District Health Service, based in Hamilton, Victoria and Deakin University through the School of Medicine. The Centre encompasses university research, service delivery and education that provides national leadership to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers and their families across Australia and more recently, globally.

The NCFH team includes professionals from the health, agricultural, social sciences and information technology disciplines who have proven capacity to deliver in the areas of education, training, applied research and community engagement.

Commencing in 2008, the NCFH was originally and generously funded by the Helen and Geoff Handbury Trust and the Victorian State Government Future Farming Strategy until June 2012. Further funding received from the Victorian Department of Health to continue to grow our work was received in 2015 for a period of 4 years ending in 2019. A further focus of the NCFH for its future sustainability is to develop commercial partnerships.

The NCFH is recognised nationally and internationally as a leader in farmer health through research, education and training, service delivery and communication.

OUR WORK AND WHAT WE DO

The NCFH aims to make a difference to farmers' lives focusing on the often overlooked human factor within farming enterprises.

The NCFH is distinctive from other rural health agencies as its focus is both to address the significant and unrecognised health, wellbeing and safety needs of people living or working in agricultural sectors, and to up-skill rural health and agricultural professionals. The work of the NCFH has been recognised with numerous prestigious awards and has had its flagship program Sustainable Farm Families™ (SFF™) piloted in Alberta Canada—a substantial agricultural producer. SFF™ illustrated that—when in the correct context—farmers, agricultural workers, agricultural industries, health professionals and businesses can successfully address the health, wellbeing, safety risks and behaviour challenges facing rural Australians. Ensuring the health of these communities is vital for a healthy and viable agricultural industry.

Our work fits under these key pillars.

1. **Reputation and Reach** – to be recognised for excellence nationally and internationally;
 - a. This is primarily through www.farmerhealth.org.au and other web based and mobile platforms.
 - b. The NCFH is the only Farmer Health site to hold Health on Net (HONcode) accreditation status in over 90 unique topic pages for farmers and rural professionals.
2. **Business Development** – we will maximise our endeavours to provide value;
 - a. The multi award winning SFF™ program contextualises health, wellbeing and safety in a farm business framework. It allows farmers to recognise their health and wellbeing as their most important asset and as integral to a healthy bottom line.
 - b. AgriSafe™ provides innovative occupational health and safety services to farm and agricultural workers.
 - c. Health & Lifestyle Assessments
3. **Education and Training** – we will teach and learn from the rural community;

The NCFH are experts in the specialised and growing discipline of agricultural health and medicine and trains professionals working in agricultural communities to improve the health and mental wellbeing of farming families in Australia. This cross-sectoral and collaborative discipline sits within Deakin University providing —through the Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine (GCAHM) — the only post-graduate agricultural health training available in Australia. Analysis of past students shows that over 80% work in rural settings.
4. **Research** – to facilitate research that makes a difference to farmers lives;
 - a. Evidence-based research underpins all activities of the NCFH. Our research programs build and contribute evidence to increase our understanding of effective interventions for agricultural workforces, their families and communities.
 - b. Conferences/symposiums are provided to ensure that research and communication of new evidence is shared and promoted amongst our service providers, researchers, policy makers and farming communities.
5. **Governance** – commitment to working together with health services, universities, government and farmers to grow the NCFH.

THE ROLE:

The role is as a voting member of the NCFH Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group will support the work of NCFH and provide leadership and strategic governance.

Specific Advisory Group Member responsibilities include:

- Advice and support in the following areas
 - Strategic planning and direction
 - Exploring opportunities to expand the national and international market for NCFH's services
 - Increasing the profile and engagement with industry bodies
- Serving as a trusted advisor to the Director as they develop and implement the NCFH strategic plan.
- Reviewing outcomes and dashboard scorecards created by NCFH for evaluating its effect, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics.
- Reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to meetings.
- Developing a framework of governance and cross sector collaboration for transferability across other states and countries.
- Contributing to evaluations of the NCFH, including an annual performance evaluation of the Advisory Group.
- Partnering with the NCFH Director and other Advisory Group members to ensure that Advisory Group resolutions are carried out.
- Serving on sub-committees or task forces and taking on special assignments as may be required.
- Representing NCFH to stakeholders and acting as an ambassador for the organisation.
- Ensuring NCFH's commitment to a diverse Advisory Group and staff that reflects the communities NCFH serves.

UNDERTAKING:

In accepting the role, the incumbent agrees to:

- Attend at least three (3) of the NCFH Advisory Group meetings annually.
- Consider NCFH as a philanthropic priority.

- Support fundraising activities of the NCFH. This can include, but not be limited to, fun runs, balls and speaking appointments. This is to ensure NCFH can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organisations and individuals.

TERM:

NCFH Advisory Group Members will serve a four year term and be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term, subject to funding

VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS:

Candidates need to reflect the values of integrity, innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and empathy and have a passion for making a difference to farmers' lives. They must also:

- Recognise each other's worth and acknowledge each others contributions both within the Advisory Group and with our external clients and stakeholders.
- Actively embrace and value the input and collaboration of colleagues.
- Foster a culture of information, knowledge and skill sharing between our respective organisations.
- Support each other to resolve difficulties.
- Communicate in an open and honest manner.
- Give feedback and ask questions in a constructive manner.
- Demonstrate professional behaviours to our colleagues and stakeholders.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

COMMITMENT

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about the NCFH's mission and who has a track record of leadership and commitment to health and/or agriculture, rural health, wellbeing, farming or farm safety matters.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (please note these are not essential or compulsory)

- Extensive professional experience and significant executive leadership accomplishments in agriculture, health, academia, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector.
- A commitment to and clear understanding of the NCFH vision to make a difference to farmers' lives.

- Diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships across boundaries through persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus and commitment among diverse individuals.
- Capacity to represent a range of stakeholders and perspectives relevant to a particular target group.
- Capacity to represent issues and consult with stakeholders across a wide and diverse geographic area.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualifications in the field of rural health, wellbeing, agriculture, occupational health and safety or relevant experience in these fields.

REMUNERATION:

- Service on the NCFH Advisory Group is without remuneration for government or university employees.
- A nominal sitting fee of \$100 for a video/teleconference or \$150 for a in person attendance is available to farmer representatives.
- Travel support will be provided to farmer representatives in line with ATO rates.