CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Position Description

The Organisation

The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) is the national peak body for the rural and remote health sector. The Alliance’s role is to provide strategic advice at a national level on rural health matters, develop innovative policy positions and support programs to improve the health of rural and remote Australians.

Alliance members include consumer groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations, health professional organisations and service providers.

The Alliance was established in 1993 and was led by the Foundation CEO for 23 years until his recent retirement. An Interim CEO has been appointed to manage the transition. It should be noted that the Interim CEO is not seeking the substantive CEO role. The Alliance is largely funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and also manages specific national projects that benefit rural and remote health. The biennial National Rural Health Conference is an important event convened by the Alliance.

The Alliance office is located in Canberra.

Vision

The Vision of the Alliance is ‘good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia’.

The Alliance strategic plan identifies the following strategic priorities:

1. Improve knowledge and understanding of matters relating to health and wellbeing in rural and remote areas
2. Strengthen our advisory and information sharing role for people who live in rural and remote communities
3. Strengthen and build collaborative relationships with Member Bodies and other key stakeholders
4. Maintain a dynamic, sustainable and resilient organisation with the capacity to achieve its Vision.

Structure and Governance

The Alliance Board is elected by the Alliance Council who are, in turn, nominated from each of the member organisations.

Although the Alliance is funded by the Australian Government, it operates as an (independent) Non Government Organisation.
The organisation has 16 staff positions across the following areas:

- programs
- policy
- corporate support
- events.

The Role

The Chief Executive Officer reports directly to the Board and has primary responsibility for the effective leadership and management of the organisation to ensure its effectiveness and financial viability.

NRHA’s main functions are:

- research to inform policy development
- policy and advocacy to create change
- program delivery to support rural and remote health.

The CEO will need to understand and work with member organisations to utilise their grass roots knowledge to lead the national policy debate on rural health issues. In addition, the CEO is responsible for ensuring that national contracts are appropriately administered and managed.

The current Interim CEO, will support the transition of the new CEO upon commencement.

Responsibilities

The CEO will work closely with the membership and the Board in progressing the organisation’s strategy objectives. The CEO is responsible to the Board through the Chair. Key responsibilities of the NRHA CEO are to:

- enhance the Alliance’s political effectiveness by ensuring a high profile with the media, politicians, government departments, business and the community
- provide leadership and support for policy, strategy and advocacy at a national level
- provide leadership to the sector through the development of relevant policy, research and media comment on rural health issues
- advocate, negotiate and effectively represent rural and remote health issues at senior levels across government(s) and the broader health sector
- work closely with other stakeholders involved in rural health and health issues
- assist the efficient and effective operation and achievement of member organisations as a network
- ensure accountability, particularly in regard to financial and contract management.
Ideal candidate

In order to undertake the role successfully, the attributes of the ideal candidate include:

- an energetic, visionary leader with a strong track record as an advocate in developing and implementing public policy
- demonstrated strategic thinking, planning and leadership skills with a focus on obtaining results
- high level decision making and negotiating skills
- the ability to lead a team to success through mentoring and guiding
- experience in leading an organisation through significant change
- the ability to enhance the financial sustainability of the organisation
- a willingness and ability to listen, consult and collaborate with partners and stakeholders
- strength of character and confidence combined with high energy, drive and a high level of self awareness
- strong commercial acumen with sound financial management skills and a strong commitment to accountability
- a thorough understanding of the health sector and an appreciation for the nature of the rural and remote health sector and the key issues it faces.

Contractual Arrangements

An attractive remuneration package, in line with the skills and experience of the candidate, will be negotiated. Salary packaging opportunities are available within those allowed by Government regulations.

The position is a full time salaried position with a contract to 30 June 2019.

How to Apply

Please send a curriculum vitae and covering letter to ceo@ruralhealth.org.au.

Closing date: COB 17 June 2016.