



A collaboration between
the Australian Council for
International Development
and Australian universities

Research for Development Impact Committee

Call for Expressions of Interest

14 Aug 2017

Are you an experienced NGO practitioner actively engaged in the field of international development?
Are you committed to seeing research influence development policy and practice?

The Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network (formerly the ACFID University Network) is calling for expressions of interest (EoIs) for members of the RDI Committee – the strategic leadership body for the RDI Network.

Applications close COB on Monday the **11th September 2017**. Further information about the Network and the application for committee membership is provided below and on the [website](#).

About the RDI Network:

The RDI Network is a network of over 1,400 practitioners, researchers and evaluators working in international development. The Network works in partnership with, and is hosted by, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). The objectives of the Network are to:

- Champion and provide leadership in effective development research, evidence and practice;
- Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and linkages in Australia and with developing country research institutions, including stimulating and supporting partnerships between ACFID members and Australian universities;
- Improve sector capacity to undertake effective and ethical development research and education; and
- Improve uptake and use of research and expertise to inform policy, practice and discourse across the Australian development sector and more broadly.

In October 2015, the Network was successful in receiving grant funding from DFAT to support a three-year program entitled 'Improving Cross-sector Engagement and Evidence Based Policy and Practice'.

Further background information about the Network is available [here](#).

About the RDI Committee:

The purpose of the RDI Committee is to provide strategic oversight and direction on activities undertaken by and through the RDI Network.

The Committee consists of representatives from both ACFID member NGOs and affiliated universities and is co-chaired by an ACFID representative, a NGO representative and a university representative. A list of current Committee members can be found [here](#). The Committee is supported through a secretariat based out of the ACFID office in Canberra.

Who should nominate:

The Committee currently has an NGO representative vacancy to fill an 18-month vacancy. Members can serve a maximum of two terms in office. Representatives must be employed by a NGO that is an [ACFID member](#), and are expected to have the full support of their organisation or institution in their role as Committee member.

Committee members act as Network representatives (rather than representatives from individual agencies or institutions) when hosting events or engaging with the Government and other stakeholders on behalf of the RDI Network.

The Committee members should meet the following **selection criteria**:

- Be senior staff with experience in research, evaluation, training and/or be committed to the application of evidence to development policy and practice;
- Fully endorse and demonstrate commitment to the objectives of the Network (listed above);
- Have previous or current engagement with inter/national networks and initiatives relevant to the objectives of the Network; and
- Have a demonstrated understanding and knowledge of development and research sectors.

What is the expected commitment?

The purpose of the RDI Committee is to provide strategic oversight and direction on activities undertaken by and through the RDI Network. The role of Committee members includes assisting the RDI Network to:

- Provide leadership in crafting a shared, strategic and ethical development research and evaluation agenda, and to improve the quality of research information exchange between Australian and regional researchers;
- Facilitate relationships and communication with diverse sector stakeholders including Australian and regional research and evaluation actors (including academia, research institutes and NGOs), members of the private sector and peer networks and institutions.

- Represent a resource of Australian-based expertise on research and evaluation policy and practice relating to international development; providing advisory and advocacy support to the RDI Network, ACFID and its members, and DFAT.

Committee members are expected to dedicate at least 12 days per year advancing Network activities (at least three days per quarter).

Committee members also occasionally provide advice to the RDI Network secretariat via email on emerging issues, and will be expected to read the weekly email sent by the secretariat to keep abreast of the Network's activities. Committee members are expected to act as a conduit to connect the RDI Network to the rest of their institution or organisation, and will lead or contribute to Network activities and events – either individually or through the provision of connection to suitably qualified contacts.

The Committee meets at least four times a year, with two meetings via teleconference, and two in person (moving between Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne). Each Committee member should expect that flights, accommodation and any other costs of attending Committee meetings will be covered by their respective organisation or institution as part of their Network support.

Benefits to committee members and supporting institutions:

- Opportunities to expand the personal and professional cross-sector network of the member and their institution or organisation;
- Increased opportunities to interact and communicate with DFAT;
- Increased opportunity to strengthen relationships and collaborate on work with ACFID, ACFID Development Policy Committee (DPC), and with other NGOs and universities on the RDI Committee;
- Increased opportunities for the Committee member and their institution or organisation to showcase their work at RDI Network events;
- Opportunities to partner with RDI Network to host events, training or other activities; and
- Opportunities for professional development and to learn new skills: e.g. how to network, work-plan development, event management, project and team management skills, MEL methodologies and practice, ethical research and evaluation.

Committee members are seen as experts in the field. As the Network grows, the reputation and profile of Committee members as experts in international development research will also increase. Committee membership is recognised on the RDI Network [website](#).

To express your interest in a role on the RDI Committee, please provide:

- A 2-page expression of interest statement against the selection criteria (above), explaining how they plan to contribute to the Network objectives;
- A recent CV detailing their present role(s) and responsibilities; and



- Evidence of endorsement from their organisation, expressing support for the staff member's time commitment to be on the Committee and confirmation of covering the costs of attending in person meetings (signed letter or email).

Please send your completed expression of interest by email to Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager at psmales@acfid.asn.au no later than COB Monday 11th September 2017.

The successful applicants will be determined by the current sitting members of the RDI Committee.

Should you have any questions, please contact the secretariat: Philippa Smales on (02) 8123 2225 or via email psmales@acfid.asn.au, or Jenny Vaccari on (02) 8281 3158 or via email jvaccari@acfid.asn.au.