



## Research for Development Impact Committee Call for Expressions of Interest

March 2019

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

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

Applications close COB on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019**. Please read the details below prior to submitting an expression of interest.

### **About the RDI Network:**

The RDI Network is a network of over 1,800 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).

### **RDI Network Vision:**

*Effective, equitable international development through evidence and collaboration.*

### **RDI Network Mission:**

*More than the sum of the parts: bringing together enquiry, evidence, practice, policy, and people, to strengthen development outcomes.*

In line with the Network vision, the **objective** of the current program is to *improve the way research evidence informs development policy, practice and discourse in the Australian development sector.*

Further background information about the Network and its work 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. It forms a respected cross-sector voice with access to significant policy and practice fora and dialogues.

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

### **Who should nominate:**

To nominate for the Committee, you must:

- Be a staff or board member of a university that is a [ACFID affiliate member](#)
- Have the full support of your institution in the role as Committee member.
- Fully endorse and demonstrate commitment to the vision, mission and objective of the Network (listed previously);

- Have previous or current engagement with RDI Network or other inter/national networks with initiatives relevant to the objective of the Network; and
- Have an interest in or experience in research, programming, monitoring and evaluation, training, and/or be committed to the application of evidence to development policy and practice.
- Be able to commit to being on the committee for 16months (until the next election).

#### **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 contribute to dialogue with DFAT;
- Increased opportunity to strengthen relationships and collaborate with ACFID, and peer 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 for professional development and to learn and apply 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.

#### **What is the expected commitment?**

Committee members are generally appointed for a three-year term and may serve up to two terms, the university representatives on the committee are currently up for election in July 2020. As this is a replacement position it will be for a 16month term until the next election.

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 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 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.

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 on emerging issues and will be expected to remain abreast of the Network's activities. Committee members are expected to act as a conduit to 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.

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

- A one-page expression of interest statement against the selection criteria (above), explaining how you plan to contribute to the Committee;
- A recent CV detailing your present role(s) and responsibilities; and
- Evidence of endorsement from your institution, expressing support for the 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](mailto:psmales@acfid.asn.au) no later than Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

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

For further information, contact Philippa Smales via email [psmales@acfid.asn.au](mailto:psmales@acfid.asn.au) (please email to arrange a phone call if you would like to discuss the opportunity).