Position Description

Community Council member –
Great South Coast / Geelong Otway/ Ballarat and Goldfields/
Wimmera and Grampians

Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN)

As one of the 31 PHNs set up across Australia from 1 July 2015, this community organisation is responsible for increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of healthcare services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes.

The Western Victoria PHN is governed by a skills based Board made up of four elected and five appointed Directors. As part of the governance structure Western Victoria PHN is establishing GP led Clinical Councils and representative Community Councils to report to the CEO on locally relevant clinical and consumer issues.

The PHN has 130 staff working across four PHN regional centres that cover the Great South Coast, Geelong Otway, Ballarat and Goldfields and Wimmera and Grampians areas. The organisational budget for 2015/16 exceeds $20M and is expected to increase in future financial years as the government plan to devolve funding from central government to PHNs across Australia.

Community Councils

Western Victoria PHN is committed to each of the four regional centres having a dedicated regional Community Council.

The Purpose of the Community Councils are:

- To provide a community perspective to Western Victoria PHN Board to ensure that decisions, investments, and innovations are patient centred, cost effective, locally relevant and aligned to local care experiences and expectations
- To provide strategic advice and make recommendations from a community and consumer perspective to support Western Victoria PHN to plan and deliver health services that enable the delivery of quality care
- To reinforce the ongoing need for joined up planning and service systems between state based services such as local hospital networks.

The Community Councils will do this by:

- Identifying local community needs, and supporting the PHN to champion public health awareness in each region
- Reporting to and informing Western Victoria PHN Board on opportunities to improve hospital and health care services from a community and consumer perspective. This
includes providing the PHN with advice on regional opportunities, issues, risks and interests as they relate to the PHNs strategic priorities

- Advising the PHN on the design or evaluation of programs to improve health outcomes for patients in every region.

The Community Councils will interface across the PHN to ensure that, as well as an understanding of local perspectives, a broad understanding of regional stakeholder issues, gaps and innovations is developed.

The Community Council will work within an annual work-plan and key performance indicator framework, to be ratified by the PHN Board.

**Community Council Membership**

Each Community Council will have a membership of 8-10 members as per the following:

- 3 individual health consumers
- 3 representatives from community and/or health organisations
- 1 minimum of 1 person who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 2-3 people with skills aligned with identified regional needs such as rural health, chronic disease, aged care or mental health

**Key Selection Criteria**

**Essential**

1. Resides within the relevant region
2. Demonstrates a history of positive community contribution or advocacy, or a keen desire to get involved.
3. Conveys a clear view of their community: its profile, needs and healthcare issues
4. Demonstrates the skill and value they will add to the Community Council, either as an individual, or organisational representative
5. A collaborative and consultative approach to discussing community and health sector needs
6. Able to provide the time commitment to bi-monthly meeting attendance

**Desirable**

1. Knowledge of health and social policy at local and ideally State/Federal level
2. Qualifications in community development, health, consumer engagement, business, quality improvement fields
3. Skills and/or knowledge and experience in one or more of the six Commonwealth priority areas for PHNs:
   - Mental health
   - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
   - Population health
   - Health workforce
   - eHealth (includes quality and risk)