

EAST TIMOR HEARTS FUND

Australians supporting a
healthy Timor-Leste

Position Description

Timorese Board Advisor Position

The Board of East Timor Hearts Fund (ETHF) is committed to reflecting the aims and aspirations of the organisation through its Board membership.

Apart from the primary responsibilities of overseeing the strategic direction of the organization, practicing good governance, and supporting the organisation's financial health, the Board is also responsible for ensuring that the organisation's aims, objectives, and activities are relevant to its stakeholders. This is especially important for organisations whose stakeholders and beneficiaries are culturally diverse, and/or where activities are based overseas.

The Board therefore seeks a Timorese person to serve in an advisory role as set out below.

Context

Enhanced relationships

ETHF is increasingly undertaking the bulk of its activities in Timor-Leste (East Timor). While major surgery happens in Australia, the screening, diagnosis, and travel preparation happens in Timor-Leste, as does the implementation of a successful secondary prophylaxis program. In the next 3-5 years, ETHF will expand its in-country activities to include more surgeries, more capacity development of health professionals, and more in-country partnerships to support or deliver enhanced RHD diagnostic capability.

Legitimacy

In order to undertake activities in Timor-Leste, ETHF needs to have cultural legitimacy and representation. Our secondary prophylaxis program is run in partnership with Maluk Timor, which ensures cultural relevance and practice. To continue and expand its activities, ETHF will need to demonstrate it is aware and respectful of cultural practices that may impact the efficacy of its activities. This knowledge will need to be embedded in applications for funding, program designs, and clinical and capacity building protocols.

Political Context

The Timorese political situation continues to provide a challenging environment for ETHF operations. There are multiple political parties, political factions, and little consensus. Since the May 2018 general elections there has still been no appointment of a Minister of Health. In this context, there are many UN, multilateral agencies, bi-lateral donors, and international NGO's forging their own strategic partnerships and agendas. The Board of ETHF needs to be aware of the shifting political context and powers as it makes its strategic and program decisions. Currently the Board relies on news media, academic reports, and occasional expert reports.

Selection Criteria

The proposed candidate(s) should be able to demonstrate:

- active relationships with one or more of the following: traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, political processes in Timor Leste.
- knowledge of and access to information in one of the following areas: donor budgetary processes; GoTL budgetary processes, news organization; political affairs
- connections to one or more of the following areas: Ministry of Health, international donor community, UN Agencies.
- Applications will need to include a resume and covering letter addressing the selection criteria for the role.

Appointment and Remuneration

Timeline: It is proposed that the ETHF appoint 1-2 Timorese Board Advisor positions in 2019/20, for a period of 12 months. After that time, a review will take place to determine the effectiveness of the advisory positions.

Remuneration: It is proposed that the Advisor be remunerated through a sitting fee to be paid on the basis of attendance at meetings. The sitting fee needs to adequately compensate the individual for time and cultural/political expertise. It is anticipated that the out-of-session consultations would be included within the sitting fee, and would incur no additional charge.

Location: The positions could be based in Melbourne or Timor-Leste. If in Timor-Leste, the candidate should have access to adequate telecommunications in order to dial into Board meetings, as required.

The proposed sitting fee amount per meeting is: AU\$200

Additional requirements

The candidate will be subject to ETHF policies and procedures, including Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy.