

Australian Journal of Rural Health Editor in Chief and Deputy Editor POSITION DESCRIPTION

About the Journal

The **Australian Journal of Rural Health** (AJRH) is a multidisciplinary journal focused on advancing rural, remote and regional health, disability and ageing practice, research and innovative outcomes. We aim to facilitate and strengthen interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary networks to enable all health professionals to better assist in improving the health and well-being of all people in rural and remote areas of Australia.

The AJRH is the official journal of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), the key body for rural, regional and remote health services, workforce, research, education and training organisations in Australia.

<https://www.ruralhealth.org.au> The journal is published by Wiley.

About the roles

The **Editor in Chief (EiC) and Deputy Editor (DE)** will be proactive and energetic with a strong record in health-related research and is committed to achieving the highest standards of scholarly publication.

The EiC and DE have significant editorial autonomy in their work to ensure the continued high status of the AJRH and the integrity and quality of its published contents.

The EiC is responsible for overseeing the publication of the AJRH bi-monthly issues and managing the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board.

The EiC and DE work within the editorial parameters determined by the Journal Advisory Committee (JAC) and the publication schedule and requirements of the publisher Wiley.

The EiC and DE have:

- comprehensive understanding of ethics and methodologies underpinning rural and remote health research.
- effective stakeholder engagement skills to oversee the Journal Editorial Board.
- participate on the Journal Advisory Committee; and effectively engage day-to-day with journal staff.
- strong rural health research network, which supports researchers and enables high-quality submissions to the AJRH.
- understand the Australian rural health system and is committed to multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- are confident and proactive in contributing to academic and public narratives on rural health across academic and media platforms.
- academic qualifications at PhD or equivalent in a health-related field with a strong publication record.

The Editor in Chief*(unpaid)*

- only focus on the executive leadership of the AJRH.
- setting direction, chairing meetings.
- Appoint Deputy Editor/s and Associate Editors and supervise their work in collaboration with the JAC.
- guide the editorial content of the AJRH, including subject matter, types of articles, balance giving regard to health disciplines, sourcing guest editorials, and topics for themed and virtual editions.
- work with and guide the Deputy Editor to establish and oversee guidelines and monitor performance to ensure the highest standards of academic integrity, quality of writing style and technical accuracy.
- provide any other support that the Deputy Editor may require.
- work and meet with the Chief Executive of the NRHA.

The Deputy Editor*(modest stipend)*

- focuses on editorial work of the AJRH.
- handling all manuscripts and editorial decisions.
- liaison with Wiley and Wiley admin in India.
- communication with authors and reviewers article decision-making.
- oversee editorial and production of the AJRH, ensuring deadlines are achievable.
- manage the manuscript selection process using systems provided by the publisher, including the online receipt of manuscripts and the peer-review process, and take the lead in making decisions regarding acceptance or rejection for publication, including author liaison where appropriate.
- establish guidelines and monitor performance to ensure the highest standards of academic integrity, quality of writing style and technical accuracy.
- design and implement strategies to increase submissions, citations, downloads and the impact factor of the AJRH in consultation with the JAC.
- participate in JAC meetings and report on editorial matters relating to publication of the AJRH.
- oversee and regularly consult with the Editorial Board and journal policy, procedural and strategic matters.
- effectively engage day-to-day with journal staff.
- represent and promote the AJRH across academic and media platforms.
- work and meet with the CE of the NRHA.

Essential selection criteria

- academic qualifications at PhD or equivalent level.
- established academic record in a health-related field.
- superior writing and editing skills.
- comprehensive understanding of ethics and methodologies underpinning rural and remote health research in Australia and globally.
- effective stakeholder engagement skills.
- broad rural health research network, which supports researchers and enables high-quality submissions to the AJRH.
- extensive understanding of the multidisciplinary rural health system.
- ability to act as a figurehead of the AJRH and contribute to academic and public narratives on rural health across research platforms and in social media.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience working independently in editorial work for a refereed journal.
- Recent or current experience living and working in rural and/or remote Australia.

Reporting and supervision

The Editor in Chief and Deputy Editor are responsible to the Chief Executive of the NRHA. The Editor in Chief is supported by the Deputy Editor, Associate Editors.

Conditions of appointment

The position is a two-year appointment (with an option for extension for a maximum five-year term) and receives a modest stipend.

An early commencement date will be negotiated to allow the appointment to be effective from early 2026. Handover can be provided until end March 2026.

Applicants are invited to submit a current CV(s) together with a short Expression of Interest addressing the key selection criteria to execassist@ruralhealth.org.au by COB **5pm (AEST) on Friday the 30th January 2026**.

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