

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT POLICY ACTION ADVISORY GROUPS (PAAGS)

PAAGs consist of RWNZ members working together to ensure the voice of rural women and rural communities are heard and not forgotten when legislation and regulations are being changed or considered. We refer to this as public policy work and it includes legislation at a Central Government level e.g. what happens at the Beehive, Local government, e.g. regional and district councils, and consultations run by government departments and other groups which impact on our rural communities.

Each of the Policy Action Advisory Group (PAAG) has a Convenor who is a member of the National Board. The Convenor works closely with the Chair of their group to ensure an efficient and effective flow of information between the PAAGs and the National Board. The Convenor also reports on the work of the PAAG to members at the Annual General Meeting.

National Office also provides coordination and support for the PAAG public policy work. There is a PAAG for each of the main public policy priorities for RWNZ:

- Community and Social Inclusion
- Connectivity and Business
- Education
- Environment and Land Use
- Health
- International *

*The International PAAG is convened by the President and will largely deal with matters arising through our work with Associated Country Women of the World.



The RWNZ Board

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

There are several ways to be involved.

As a PAAG Chair - this is a great role for someone who has experience in facilitating or chairing a group and who has some previous experience in public policy work. Their experience might have been in a volunteer or in a paid role.

The Chair will be willing and able to represent RWNZ in meetings with Government officials, Members of Parliament and Ministers and at events such as industry conferences.

As a PAAG member you will have an interest in contributing to public policy and will either have a subject knowledge in the policy area of the PAAG, or an interest or willingness to learn.

You will love working as part of a team and are likely to have good local or regional connections to help us gather feedback on issues.

These are great opportunities to dip your toe into the world of public policy. You'll also get the chance to work with some other wonderful rural women and build your networks.

These roles will also provide opportunities for those who want to first become a member of a PAAG and then develop into a Chair role.

FAQ

HOW WILL THEY WORK?

We anticipate that PAAGS will meet regularly online. How often will be up to the Group to determine but in the first few months we anticipate there will be a couple of meetings in quick succession to help everyone become familiar with what is expected and get to know each other.

Our Strategic goal is to have represented RWNZ at least four times over each of our policy areas so there is likely to be a quarterly focus for each portfolio. These are volunteer roles but pre-approved expenses will be paid if you incur costs e.g. travel to represent RWNZ at an event.

IF I JOIN A PAAG, WHAT AM I COMMITTING TO?

We are asking people to sign up for two years. This allows the chance for the group to build up expertise and knowledge and to tackle some meaty issues. We understand, of course, that life sometimes gets in the way of the best intentions so obviously exceptions can be made.

WHAT DO I DO IF I AM INTERESTED?

Have a look at the requirements and join in our info session. Expression of Interest forms can be sent to policy@ruralwomennz.nz

FAQ

WHAT SKILLS, EXPERIENCE OR QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO HAVE?

We've set out what we are looking for in the role descriptions which are available [here](#).

IS IT WORTH PUTTING AN APPLICATION IN IF I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE?

The Chair roles do ask for more experience but there is plenty of opportunity for keen interested people to join a PAAG and learn. You will already have the relevant experience by virtue of being a rural woman!

If you are interested in one of our policy topics, we are interested in hearing from you.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If you have a question about the process or a detail on the form, contact our Chief Executive, Gabe O'Brien on ce@ruralwomennz.nz or 0800 256 467.

If you would like to talk to one of our Convenors about a particular PAAG, their contact details are available here on the next page.

CONTACTS

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