



## POSITION DESCRIPTION: CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **About Birth for Humankind**

Birth for Humankind are a Melbourne-based non-profit organisation, established in 2014, who exist to ensure that every mother, regardless of her socioeconomic circumstances, has access to support, education and care during pregnancy, birth and early parenting. Birth for Humankind aspires to bring a culture of celebration, inclusion, equity and kindness to birth culture and work to fill the current gaps in the Australian maternal health system.

The women we support are primarily from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds, young women, women experiencing homelessness and women with a history of family violence and trauma. We provide support to women through a number of tailored birth support and education programs, including a Doula Support Program, Education, Research and Advocacy programs.

### **Our Vision**

Every mother has the care and support she needs to make empowered choices and to have the best birth and early parenting experience possible for herself, her baby and growing family.

### **Our Mission**

To foster healthy families and communities by providing mother-centred support, education and holistic care throughout pregnancy, birth and after the baby comes.

### **Our Values**

Trust, Equity, Celebration, Respect, Connection

### **Purpose of the role**

The Chair, Board of Directors, leads the Birth for Humankind Board to ensure the organisation's vision, mission values and strategic objectives are met. As Birth for Humankind moves into our fifth year and next phase of development, we are seeking a skilled, experienced, passionate and visionary Chair, who is able to lead our organisation and our plans for sustainability and growth.

## **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Skills and experience**

- Three (3) or more years' experience as a Director of a small or medium NFP or for-profit;
- Preferably one or more years' experience as a Chair or office bearer of a small or medium NFP or for-profit;
- A strong understanding of corporate governance, the role of an effective Board and management;
- A proven track record in sustainability, risk management, strategy, growth and leadership;
- For-purpose business development, fundraising or philanthropy expertise, including contacts and networks, and with a proven track record in engaging and building diverse stakeholder relationships;
- Experience in succession planning, executive management and development, collaboration and collective impact;
- Preferably experience in the public health sector, community services or health organisation,

- and with established networks within the Victorian maternal health sector;
- Good knowledge and understanding of the role of doula, maternal and/or women's health and maternal health system within Australia, and a desire to advocate for better health outcomes for women experiencing disadvantage at both an individual and population-based level; and
- Excellent presentation, communication and advocacy skills;

### **Qualities and attributes**

- Passion for, and commitment to, our vision and mission;
- Purpose-driven, with a strong sense of social justice and community, and a desire to put their skills and experience towards creating positive social change;
- Ability to manage competing demands and identify priorities with limited timeframes and resources;
- Collaborative, inclusive and supportive leadership and management style;
- Commitment to transparent, open, authentic communication;
- Strong attention to detail, integrity and credibility, and belief in the power of community, diversity and celebration; and
- Ability to commit to the role and the organisation long-term.

Birth for Humankind is an equal opportunity employer. Birth for Humankind encourages candidates from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate an understanding of appropriate behaviours when engaging with children and must abide by our Child Safe Commitment Statement and Code of Conduct.

### **Birth for Humankind Board**

The Birth for Humankind Board currently meets every six weeks, after business hours, in Brunswick East. Meetings are currently three hours, and include regular strategic sessions within the Board agenda.

The Birth for Humankind Board currently has six volunteer Directors, with experience in corporate governance, finance, maternal health, community services, fundraising, business development, risk management, strategic planning, executive management and human resources.

In addition to scheduled Board meetings, the Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning sessions, Directors attend Birth for Humankind related events during the year, and attend additional meetings as necessary.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply for this position, please submit your CV and cover letter addressing the key selection criteria to [jobs@birthforhumankind.org](mailto:jobs@birthforhumankind.org)

For further information on the position, please contact Kirsty Burke on 0404 230 460.

**Applications close Tuesday 7 May 2019, 5.00pm AEST.**