

Award	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 (ref only)
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Reports to: Director of Public Affairs and Policy

Member of: Public Affairs Team

Direct Reports: None

Location: Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne

Type: Part-time

Primary purpose of the role

The Head of Health Policy and Partnerships drives Asthma Australia's national health policy agenda, using clinical insight and deep understanding of primary care to influence policy, design programs, and develop partnerships that deliver large-scale, systemic change for people with asthma.

This role requires the expertise of a highly experienced and respected General Practitioner who brings clinical credibility, primary health care experience, and a strong commitment to improving respiratory health. Operating at the intersection of policy, practice, and advocacy, the position plays a pivotal role in shaping national health reform. The Head of Health Policy and Partnerships is a strategic thinker energised by the opportunity to apply clinical insight, sector knowledge, and established networks to influence policies that improve health outcomes and quality of life for the 2.8 million Australians living with asthma.

This is an external-facing leadership role for a proactive professional with exceptional communication and influencing skills. Reporting to the Director of Public Affairs and Policy and working closely with the CEO, you will represent Asthma Australia at high-level meetings with governments, health departments, peak bodies, and the pharmaceutical industry. You will be central to expanding our partnerships and reach, building strong alliances across primary care and allied health to enable innovative and impactful solutions.

Key Responsibilities

Health Policy Leadership

- Lead the development of Asthma Australia's health policy agenda, informed by clinical experience, evidence, consumer insights, and government policy priorities.
- Develop and advocate for reform proposals that address the health impacts of poorly managed asthma and elevate asthma as a national health priority.

Government Relations and Advocacy

- Represent Asthma Australia at briefings, consultations and high-level meetings with ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials, and parliamentary advisors.
- Prepare persuasive evidence-based policy briefs, submissions, and talking points that position Asthma Australia as a credible and solutions-focused voice in primary care.

Clinical Leadership and Advice

- Provide authoritative clinical guidance across the organisation, contributing to campaigns, media, service design, and policy development.
- Ensure our work is grounded clinical practice and resonates with primary care professionals and the broader health sector.

Strategic Partnerships and Alliances

- Build and maintain strong relationships with key health organisations, including TSANZ, LFA, RACGP, APNA, NACCHO, NAATSIWHP, CHF, PSA, the Pharmacy Guild, the National Rural Health Alliance, health departments and PHNs.
- Identify and pursue collaborative opportunities that lead to co-designed programs, policy proposals and integrated care models.

Advance First Nations Inclusion

- Embed culturally safe practices, fostering meaningful partnerships, and ensuring programs and decisions reflect the diversity and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Network and Influence Expansion

- Actively grow Asthma Australia's external network to increase our visibility, influence and impact.
- Stay attuned to emerging opportunities and innovations across the sector that could translate into impact for people with asthma.

Skills and qualifications

Essential

- Qualified General Practitioner with current or prior registration in Australia
- Significant experience working in primary care, ideally with a focus on respiratory health or chronic disease
- Demonstrated ability to develop policy, lead strategic advocacy, and influence government
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Experience working with or within government, health departments, or peak bodies
- Proven ability to build and manage strategic relationships and partnerships

Desirable

- Experience or qualifications in public health, health policy or health systems
- Experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations
- Media interview experience
- Membership in relevant professional organisations

Key relationships

Who	Role
Internal	
CEO	To lead the organisation in achieving its strategic goals and impact.
Executive Team	To collaborate in delivering strategy, leading culture, driving performance, and ensuring effective operations.
Board Directors	To provide governance, strategic oversight, and fiduciary accountability.
Fundraising Team	To grow and diversify income through appeals, corporate partnerships, major gifts, community engagement, and trusts and foundations.
Marketing Team	To build brand visibility, engage audiences, and amplify our mission through strategic marketing campaigns and consumer health campaigns.
Services and Impact Team	To design and deliver programs and services that improve the lives of people with asthma.
External	
Federal and State Government Decision-Makers (Ministers, Advisors, Public Servants)	To influence policy, secure funding, and ensure asthma is prioritised on the health agenda.
Peak Health Organisations	To build alliances that amplify our voice and strengthen collective advocacy.
Health Departments	To align with system priorities and explore evidence-based collaboration opportunities.
Media	To raise public awareness and generate momentum for policy and behaviour change.

Capabilities for the role

Capability	
Work Collaboratively	Required build relationships and work across all parts of the business to drive execution of the strategy
Influence and Negotiate	Ability to influence stakeholders to drive change
Deliver Results	Outcome focused and delivers on agreed objectives
Plan and Prioritise	Able plan and prioritise organisation wide operational activity
Problem Solving	Looks for and implements solutions to complex problems
Interpersonal Astuteness	Able to lead others effectively by leveraging interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence