

Community Advisory Committee

Information Pack



Remembering every little life

| Who We Are

Red Nose and Sands are two organisations with long and proud histories. Both began more than 40 years ago, and both were established by bereaved parents trying to make sense of their losses and aiming to provide newly bereaved families with support, comfort and hope.

On 30 November 2020, these two organisations joined together with the goal to provide greater reach and more support to bereaved families right across Australia. Whilst the organisation will be known as Red Nose, the merged organisation will honour the many bereaved parents who have been part of Sands' history by maintaining the Sands name over peer support and co-branding other services where Sands has had a presence in the past.

We know that support takes many forms and that what works for one person may not be right for another. We know the value of informal support, of community, and of a place to belong. We also know the value of "paying it forward" or "giving back" particularly if it is in honour of a much loved baby or child.

With this in mind, Red Nose (including Sands) is absolutely committed to growing, supporting and maintaining a strong and vibrant community. However, this can only happen when there are mechanisms in place to ensure the voices of our community run throughout our organisation and influence decisions at all levels.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a **Community Advisory Committee**, reporting to the Red Nose Board of Directors and Executive Management Team. The Committee will provide advice and information to the Board, assisting to

establish our community engagement strategy and yearly plan, as well as helping to keep the organisation accountable to the community. The Committee will also ensure that we meet the needs of our community now, and into the future.

Red Nose

Red Nose is Australia's leading authority on safe sleeping and safer pregnancy advice, and bereavement support services for anyone impacted by the death of a baby or child during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood. Our research and education programs help parents, carers and health professionals to reduce the risk of their baby or child dying suddenly and unexpectedly.

Red Nose understands that the death of a baby or young child is the most devastating time in a parent's life. Through our Grief and Loss Support Service, we provide free 24/7 bereavement support including professional counselling, a dedicated Support Phone Line, and many ways to assist bereaved families to remember their babies and children.

Sands

Sands brings expertise in peer support from one bereaved parent to another, following pregnancy or newborn death.

Sands also brings a strong tradition of highly engaged and connected communities. Sands also has a 24/7 Support Line, and a range of support groups and community activities to help connect bereaved families.



| The Purpose of the Community Advisory Committee

The Community Advisory Committee has been established to ensure the voices of our community are heard and used to inform and influence Red Nose decision-making. This committee will advise the Board and Executive, and will contribute to establishing and maintaining effective systems to support and grow our community and to monitor community perspectives.

When people come to us, we want them to feel 'we've got you', that they are with people who understand and that they can be completely comfortable. They should never feel alone.

– Craig Heatley, Chair of Red Nose

| Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference outline that the Community Advisory Committee will:

- Advise the organisation in relation to integration of community perspectives into all levels of the organisation's decision-making including:
 - community engagement;
 - community development;
 - policy development; and
 - quality activities and major initiatives for improving outcomes for bereaved families and the broader community.
- Have input and provide advice regarding the Red Nose / Sands Community Engagement Strategy.
- Provide strategic advice on the development of an annual Community Participation Plan, identifying priority areas and issues, as well as key strategies to enable community participation at a local level.
- Monitor the Community Participation Plan against Key Result Areas for effective community participation and report these results to the Board.
- Assist the organisation in communicating effectively with the community including local, regional, and rural communities.
- Promote sensitivity and attention to meeting the needs of different community members.



| Committee Membership

The membership of the Committee will comprise of:

- A Chairperson
- Between 6-10 community members made up of a representative from Qld, WA, SA, NSW, ACT and Victoria.
- Red Nose Board Member. The inaugural Board representative will be Nick Xerakias. Nick is one of three Sands Board members who have joined the Board of Red Nose. He is based in Victoria and is a bereaved father of Angelo who died shortly after birth 3 years ago.

Meetings will also be attended by our Co-CEOs (Keren and Jackie) and the General Manager, Community Engagement (Kate) who will represent the wider team.

The Committee will meet five times per year via video conference, and report twice a year against the Community Participation Plan.

| Inaugural Chairperson – Nicole Ireland

Nicole has been involved with Sands since her first child, son Nicholas, was stillborn in 2006.

Nicole has held many roles including Chairperson of Sands Queensland. She has attended many events, overseen the running of others, and remains an active and supportive member of the organisation.

In her professional life, Nicole provides strategic stakeholder engagement, government relations and communications advice through her company, Nicole Ireland Communications.



| A message from the Chairperson

“As a long-time member of the Sands family and a passionate advocate for our grass roots activities, I am delighted the Board has endorsed the formation of the Community Advisory Committee.

I feel honoured and privileged to chair this Committee as I truly value the collective support of bereaved parents and the community we have created, and will continue to grow, together.

To me, this Committee provides a strong link between this community of bereaved parents from

both Sands and Red Nose right across the country to the broader organisation and to our external stakeholders.

I believe we have a fantastic opportunity to share best practice events, ideas and programs to support our community and ensure everyone remains connected, engaged and included – and to make sure that all bereaved parents, including those who will unfortunately join our community in the future, will be able to access the care and support they deserve.”

| What you could bring?

Nominations are now open for Committee members.

We are looking for thoughtful people who can draw on their own experiences of loss and support, as well as their understanding of others they have met on their journey, to contribute constructively to the Committee's purpose.

You will be able to demonstrate that you are open minded, a willing listener, organised, willing and able to express your opinions in a respectful manner, and committed to assisting the organisation to meet the needs of all bereaved families.

Given that you will be representing the community, it will be important that you are engaged with our community, or that you have been in the past. You must also be willing to attend events and to join

online conversations, ensuring you understand the diverse range of needs and opinions held.

We'll be looking to make sure we have members from Qld, WA, SA, NSW, ACT and Vic, rural and regional perspectives, as well as a diversity of types of loss.

Nominations will be via an Expression of Interest Form, which is at the back of this pack and can be found at: rednose.org.au/communityadvisorycommittee

The form should be returned to:
katecowmeadow@rednose.org.au

Applications close on 20 December 2020 and will be considered by the Board before the end of the year. The Committee will commence meetings in late January 2021.

| More information

Thank you for considering a nomination to our Community Advisory Committee. If you have any questions, please contact our General Manager, Community Engagement **Kate Cowmeadow** via email **katecowmeadow@rednose.org.au**.



| Expression of Interest Form

Name	
Email	
Phone	
Postal address	
Are you a bereaved parent? Please tell us a little about your experience.	
What does community mean to you in the context of Red Nose and Sands?	
How have you been involved with Red Nose and/or Sands in the past?	

Having thought about the Advisory Committee, what do you think you would bring to the role of Committee member?	
Please tell us about Board or Committee roles you currently hold or have previously held in other organisations.	

| Thank you

Thank you for your interest in joining the Community Advisory Committee.

Please return your completed form by 20 December 2020 to: **katecowmeadow@rednose.org.au**

