

# Role description

## Senior Environmental Health Officer

<b>Status</b>	Permanent full time	<b>Job ad reference</b>	QPHSS465335
<b>Branch and Division</b>	Health Protection Branch Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services	<b>Contact details</b>	Tenille Fort (07) 3328 9323
<b>Classification</b>	HP4	<b>Salary range</b>	\$115,049 - \$123,799 per annum + super
<b>Location</b>	Herston	<b>Closing date</b>	Tuesday, 07/02/2023

## Your opportunity

The Department of Health (the Department) has a diverse set of responsibilities, and a common purpose of providing highly effective health system leadership. The Department is responsible for the overall strategic leadership and direction of the public health system in Queensland. We strongly believe in the need to work with people that value the goals of our organisation and who will thrive in our workplace.

### About Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services (QPHaSS)

QPHaSS under the leadership of the General Manager, brings together key system support functions and the surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases and public health risks in Queensland – Leading the statewide planning and coordination of programs and services to prevent, or control, health-related diseases, hazards and harmful practices and enhance protective health factors to promote the overall health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The General Manager QPHaSS reports to the Chief Operating Officer through the Board of Management and is a member of Queensland Health Executive Leadership Team. QPHaSS has a 2022-23 operational budget of around \$823 million, 2,639 FTE and a scope of service that covers the whole State. Our four key pillars

#### 1. Pathology Queensland

- A statewide comprehensive diagnostic pathology service, providing tailored services and support to HHSs based on clinical need.

## 2. Forensic and Scientific Services

- Providing comprehensive forensic, public health and environmental science testing, analysis, and solutions. FSS Investigates and responds to public health threats, epidemics, civil emergencies, criminal investigations and coronial enquires.

## 3. Biomedical Technology Services

- Providing Biomedical Engineering, Medical Physics and Radiology Support expertise, advice and information management to support health technology safety, quality and regulatory compliance, and the delivery and coordination of technical services.

## 4. Public Health

- *Communicable diseases*: providing leadership in the surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases in Queensland.
- *Health Protection*: safeguarding the community from potential harm or illness caused by hazards and harmful practices, and enhancing the protective elements of water quality, fluoridation, food safety, radiation safety and chemical safety.
- *Health Regulation*: providing strategic advice on matters related to private facilities, medication management services, Schools of Anatomy, medicines including medicinal cannabis, blood, human tissues and related products, pharmacy ownership and healthcare legislation policy and regulation.
- *Cancer Screening*: developing, leading and governing the effective cancer screening programs and strategies (bowel, cervical and breast cancer related) in Queensland.

## Our values

Our values are those of the Queensland public service



Customers First



Ideas into action



Unleash potential



Be courageous



Empower people

These five values underpin behaviours that will support and enable better ways of working and result in better outcomes for Queenslanders.

## About the role

### Purpose

The Senior Environmental Health Officer, Food Safety Standards and Regulation Unit, in the Health Protection Branch, reports to Advanced Environmental Health Officer. The number of direct reports this position is responsible for is Nil. The role will include science, policy and compliance.

## Your key responsibilities

- Adhere to defined service quality standards, health and safety policies and procedures relating to the work being undertaken to ensure high quality, safe services and workplaces.
- Lead, develop and review specialist clinical policies and procedures that support consistent statewide operational practices, service improvement activities and outcomes on significant environmental health issues relating to food safety and standards.
- Play a key role in developing and contributing to professional and stakeholder networks to facilitate effective communication for the implementation of policies, procedures and service delivery models to manage environmental health, nutrition and food science issues relating to food safety and standards.
- Translate food safety and standards related health scientific data and literature into information that public health practitioners, policy makers, other clinicians and the public can understand and use.
- Play a key role in providing specialist clinical advice on significant environmental health, nutrition and food science issues relating to food safety and standards to line managers, senior management, and stakeholders both within and outside the discipline.
- Provide written and oral reports and presentations on health impacts of food safety and standards issues.
- Provide scientific and health risk advice on food safety and standards matters to management, partners and other stakeholders.
- Utilise skills and knowledge to apply findings from relevant literature, investigations and research studies to improve environmental health practice in relation to food safety and standards.
- Apply advanced knowledge of scientific principles and methods in nutrition and food science to enhance nutritional status and prevent chronic diseases through developing and solving novel and complex nutrition interventions and food regulation issues which influence the environment, affecting food supply and eating behaviour.
- Apply specialist knowledge of the Australian and New Zealand food regulation system to:
  - lead and contribute to decision making, including facilitating the development of whole-of-government positions,
  - identify and implement novel and evidence-based strategies to ensure public health and nutrition priorities across the state and nationally are reflected in the development and ongoing review of food regulation policies and standards.

## Reporting/work relationships

The position reports to Advanced Environmental Health Officer.

The number of direct reports are Nil.

### **Mandatory qualifications, registrations and other requirements**

- Appointment to this position requires proof of qualification of a mandatory possession of a tertiary (degree) qualification that is accredited by the Australian Institute of Environment Health.

- While not mandatory, a post-graduate qualification in a related discipline would be well regarded.
- Certified copies of relevant qualification and registration must be provided to the appropriate supervisor/manager, prior to the commencement of duties.
- Participate in the unit's on-call arrangements and after hours work as required for the effective management of incidents and other health protection issues of concern requiring a rapid response. There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted.
- It is a condition of employment for this role for the employee to be, and remain, vaccinated against COVID-19 ([Health Employment Directive No. 12/21](#) and [Queensland Health Human Resources Policy B70](#)).

## Role fit

The essential requirements for this role are:

- Demonstrated high level of knowledge, expertise and skill in food safety related aspects of environmental health, including risk assessment, and the ability to independently undertake all routine environmental health clinical practice responsibilities, including where established principles, procedures and methods require some expansion, adaptation or modification and developing service improvement initiatives.
- Demonstrated understanding of the Australian and New Zealand food regulation system and an ability to apply high level expertise in the provision of advice and development of novel and evidence based solutions to non-routine and complex public health and nutrition relevant food regulation issues, preferably with experience in working within the food regulatory environment.
- Demonstrated ability to implement and manage specific investigations, compliance activities or research projects, and to critically analyse and interpret data to monitor the effects of food regulation.
- High level oral and written communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to work as part of a high performing team, communicate confidently to a range of audiences and undertake effective consultation processes.
- Highly motivated and a willingness to participate in cross program initiatives to address critical issues as required by management.

## Behavioural Competencies Required

We are all leaders in the Department of Health, regardless of role or classification level. The department is committed to leadership at all levels of our organisation, in this role you will be required to display the following leadership behaviours:

- **Makes insightful decisions** – makes considered, ethical and courageous decisions based on insight into the broader context
- **Stimulates ideas and innovation** – gathers insights and embraces new ideas and innovation to inform future practice
- **Inspires others** – inspires others by driving clarity, engagement and a sense of purpose

- **Demonstrates sound governance** – maintains a high standard of practice through governance and risk management

## How to apply

Please provide the following information to the panel to assess your suitability:

- A short-written response (maximum 1-2 pages, dot points acceptable) on how your experience, abilities, knowledge and personal qualities would enable you to achieve the key responsibilities and meet the skill requirements of the role.
- Your current CV or resume, including two referees who have a thorough knowledge of your capabilities, work performance and conduct within the previous two years. It is preferable to include your current, immediate or past supervisor.
- Late applications cannot be submitted online. For a late application to be considered, please arrange approval and submission via the contact person.
- Applications will remain current for 12 months or for the duration of the vacancy. Future vacancies of a temporary, full time and part time nature may also be filled through this recruitment process.
- Only those persons eligible to work in Australia may be employed by Queensland Health. Prospective employees are required to provide proof of identity and documentary evidence of their right to work in Australia.

## Additional information

Discover more about working at the Department [here](#). Of note:

- The information you provide as an applicant is used in adherence with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*
- All roles within the Department are subject to employment screening.
- The nominated applicant will be required to disclose any serious disciplinary action taken against them in the Queensland public sector.
- To be appointed permanently, you must be an Australian citizen, have permanent residency status or have a visa permitting you to work permanently in Australia. For temporary appointments, you must have a visa permitting you to work for the length of the temporary appointment.
- The Department aims to maintain a safe, healthy and secure work environment for all employees, clients, visitors and contractors. Achieving this aim is the responsibility of all.
- Applicants may be required to disclose any pre-existing injury or medical condition of which they suspect would be aggravated by performing the role. Details are available in section 571 of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 (<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2003-027#ch.14-pt.1-div.1>)
- We are committed to building inclusive cultures in the Queensland public sector that respect and promote [human rights](#) and [diversity](#). We encourage everyone to apply for our

advertised roles, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, language, sexual orientation, and disability or family responsibilities. We recognise the value of diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

- The Department values and respects the diversity of its workforce and believes that all its employees should be treated fairly and with dignity and respect. All employees of the Department must show respect for each other, visitors, the general public and contractors by treating them fairly and objectively, ensuring freedom from discrimination, sexual harassment, racial or religious vilification, victimisation and bullying. The Department of Health is an equal opportunity employer.

To demonstrate support for a safe, secure and supportive workplace, the Department is a White Ribbon Australia accredited workplace. For more information visit [here](#).

- The Department acknowledges the challenge for its staff in balancing work, family and community life successfully. To help them achieve this, we encourage conversations between managers and staff about implementing [flexible working arrangements](#) to manage their paid work commitments with their career goals, personal, community and cultural responsibilities. Through flexible working arrangements, there is an opportunity to match the individual's requirements with those of the workplace to achieve agreed work goals and objectives.