

Role Description

Environmental Health Officer

Reference:	TV470758	Position ID:	30481699
Role title:	Environmental Health Officer	Classification:	HP3
Employment status:	One permanent full time and One fixed term temporary full time for up to 12 months	Salary:	\$2719.80 to \$3997.60 per fortnight
Unit/ Branch:	Townsville Public Health Unit	Contact Name:	Damien Farrington
		Contact Number:	07 4433 6920
Location:	Townsville	Closing Date:	Thursday 23 February 2023

The opportunity

This role will deliver routine regulatory and non-regulatory environmental health services across the area to protect, promote and prevent risks to the community arising from environmental health hazards that impact on the natural and built environment and human health.

This position will be involved in working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander communities. It will also provide routine advice on environmental health matters to internal and external stakeholders, commensurate with the level of experience.

The Townsville Public Health Unit (TPHU) is part of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and provides public health services to both the Townsville HHS and the Northwest HHS.

Public health focuses on the health and wellbeing of populations, rather than of individuals. TPHU aims to minimise the morbidity and mortality from communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases, and environmental health hazards thereby:

- protecting the health of the population, and
- prevention of disease and illness.

TPHU fulfils the public health regulatory services on behalf of the Department of Health to ensure sound public health standards are maintained in communities.

TPHU protects and enhances the health of the North Queensland community. This includes: communicable disease surveillance, managing outbreaks of communicable, vaccine-preventable and environmental health-related disease, providing expert support to vaccine service providers, monitoring immunisation coverage and vaccine safety, vector surveillance, vector control and research to minimise the transmission of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases, supporting health service staff, clients and families as per the state-wide Rheumatic Heart Disease program, preparing for and responding to pandemics, floods and other major incidents with other agencies, responding to suspected clusters of cancers and other diseases, public health disaster management at the local and Health Service level, facilitating, monitoring, supporting the Indigenous public health programs (environmental health) in remote communities, regulatory and compliance activities including monitoring, investigating, promoting and enforcing public health legislation and, providing public health support to other healthcare providers, residential care and child care services, schools and the wider community.

The TPHU is a multidisciplinary team consisting of a public health physician, public health nurses, environmental health officers, an epidemiologist, entomologists, operational officers, and administration officers.

TPHU works collaboratively with, and supports, a range of organisations including other health services, other government departments, local government, non-government agencies, research institutions and local communities.

Reporting line, staffing, and budget responsibilities

- This position reports operationally and professionally to the Manager Environment Health.

The role

Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate expertise, skills and knowledge, commensurate with the level of experience, to undertake routine environmental health services and incident response, and implement projects and research, while under the supervision and professional guidance of a more experienced Environmental Health Officer.

Environmental Health Practice

- Develop ability to use evidence-based practice to investigate, enforce and prosecute in a court of law, relevant health legislation, in compliance with departmental policies and procedures and in line with contemporary investigatory practice, under the supervision of a more experienced Environmental Health Officer.
- Develop skills and strategies to educate and promote contemporary environmental health concepts and practice to internal and external stakeholders, under the supervision of a more experienced Environmental Health Officer.

Communication and Partnerships

- Provide competent environmental health advice to internal and external stakeholders and prepare routine reports and submissions on environmental health issues to the Manager Environmental Health, commensurate with the level of experience.
- Work within a multidisciplinary team, including other environmental health officers, to deliver an environmental health response to outbreaks and incidents to address specific Public Health issues.
- Collaborate with partners in addressing environmental health issues in culturally and linguistically diverse groups including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander populations to enhance population health outcomes utilising various communication methods.

Leadership and Management

- Use knowledge obtained through tertiary education, professional development and experience, to inform, improve and promote environmental health practice.
- Commensurate with level of experience, provide guidance to less experienced staff, other environmental health practitioners and work experience students, in relation to routine procedures and practices, under the supervision of a more experienced Environmental Health Officer.

Knowledge Management

- Engage in continual learning and development of environmental health practice knowledge and expertise through active learning within the team and by engaging in ongoing, relevant professional development activities.
- Demonstrated ability to self-manage work activities and impart professional knowledge to environmental health colleagues.

Additional:

- Fulfil the responsibilities of this role primarily in accordance with the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) core values, as outlined below, and in accordance with the [values outlined for the public service](#) with the Queensland Government.
- Ensure that service standards, safety and quality are maintained through adherence to defined service quality standards and relevant occupational health and safety policies, procedures and work practices.
- Implement and monitor the organisation's quality standards, occupational health and safety policies, procedures and programs and provide clinical governance in the relevant work area.
- Some roles within Queensland Health are designated as Vaccination Preventable Disease (VPD) risk roles. **This is a VPD risk role.**

Work Health and Safety

Townsville HHS is committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees. This commitment includes a dedicated *People Focussed Safety* culture.

A *People Focussed Safety* culture commits to the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and other persons, through the provision of a dynamic and comprehensive Health and Safety Management System (HSMS). The HSMS provides for proactive safety initiatives, early injury management practices with a strong focus on a safe and durable return to work.

The provision of a Health and Safety environment within Townsville HHS is everyone's responsibility.

Safety and Quality

Relevant to the position, participate in the ongoing education, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of safety and quality initiatives set by [The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#) to achieve a safe high-quality and sustainable health system, including compliance with the *National Safety and Quality Health Services Standards*.

For more information in regard to Work Health and Safety Accountabilities within the Townsville HHS please review [Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 - Part 2, Health and Safety Duties](#).

Mandatory qualifications/ professional registration/ other requirements

- The successful applicant must hold a tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification that is accredited by Environmental Health Australia or deemed eligible for appointment by the Queensland Health Environmental Health Officer Appointments Review Committee.
- Some travel will be required due to the geographical scope of the position, including stays of up to two weeks in remote Indigenous communities. A corporate vehicle is available on a booking on priority needs basis.
- A class "C" driver licence is required.
- Appointment to this position requires proof of qualification and registration or membership (if applicable) with the appropriate registration authority or association. Certified copies of the required information must be provided to the appropriate supervisor/manager prior to commencement of clinical duties.
- **Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD):** Health Care Workers in Queensland Health whose occupation poses a potential risk of exposure to blood or body fluids are required to provide evidence of vaccinations or proof that they are not susceptible (due to prior exposure to the disease and therefore have natural immunity) to the following VPD's Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Pertussis (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis containing vaccine) according to the Queensland Health Policy.
- **COVID-19 vaccination requirements:** It is a mandatory condition of employment for the employee to be and remain vaccinated against COVID-19, as per [Health Employment Directive 12/21](#) and [Queensland Health Human Resources Policy B70](#).
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons are strongly encouraged to apply.

How you will be assessed

You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate the following key requirements, knowledge and experience which is outlined under 'The role'. The ideal applicant will be someone who has proven ability and can demonstrate the following:

- Knowledge of, or ability to rapidly acquire knowledge of environmental health legislation, inspectorial functions, policies, procedures and contemporary environmental health issues.
- Demonstrated experience, or the ability to rapidly gain experience in conducting investigations, inspections, audits, projects, surveys, and legal prosecutions.
- Effective written and interpersonal communication skills and the ability to effectively and sensitively communicate with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.
- Ability to implement projects and research on contemporary environmental health issues and provide competent advice to internal and external stakeholder.
- Ability to both work autonomously and self-manager work activities and to work in a multi-disciplinary team to address public health issues.

Your application

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

- Your current CV or resume, including referees. You must seek approval prior to nominating a person as a referee. Referees should have a thorough knowledge of your work performance and conduct, and it is preferable to include your current/immediate past supervisor. By providing the names and contact details of your referee/s you consent for these people to be contacted by the selection panel. If you do not wish for a referee to be contacted, please indicate this on your resume and contact the selection panel chair to discuss.
- A short response (maximum of two pages) on how your experience, abilities, knowledge and personal qualities are relevant for the role, addressing the key responsibilities and key attributes of the position.
- Applications will remain current for 12 months after they have been submitted.
- Future vacancies of a similar nature throughout the Townsville Hospital and Health Service may also be filled through this recruitment process.

Once completed, your application should be submitted online – visit the [Smart Jobs and Careers website](#). If you have difficulties, please contact Recruitment Services on 1300 193 156.

About the Townsville Hospital and Health Service

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) is the public healthcare provider for more than 250,000 people across a geographic area of 150,000km².

We serve the local government areas of Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Flinders, Richmond, Hinchinbrook and Palm Island.

In doing so, we operate 21 facilities: 19 hospitals and health centres and two residential aged care homes. More than 6,600 staff work across our facilities, which is about one in every 17 working people, making us members of the communities we serve.

We provide a comprehensive range of services, from primary care in remote locations, to highly specialised care at Townsville University Hospital. This is the largest tertiary hospital in Northern Australia, providing specialist referral services for the 700,000 people living from Mackay to the Torres Strait, to the Northern Territory border.

More than providing the healthcare of today, we are planning and innovating for the future. Our staff and collaborators are advancing healthcare through impactful research. While as a major teaching hospital, we are training tomorrow's doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health practitioners, and more.

Our vision is world-class healthcare for northern Queensland. The [Townsville Hospital and Health Service Strategic plan 2022-2026](#) commits to this ambitious direction, outlines our strategic objectives and lists the measures we will use to know we have achieved them.

Our Vision: World-class healthcare for northern Queensland

Our Purpose: Great care every day

Our Values:



Integrity



Compassion



Accountability



Respect



Engagement

Please visit our website for additional information about the [Townsville Hospital and Health Service](#)

About the department – [Townsville Public Health Unit](#)

Additional information

- Pre-employment screening, including criminal history, aged care checks, and discipline history checks, may be undertaken on persons recommended for employment. Roles providing health, counselling and support services to children will require a 'working with children check' from the Blue Card Services Department of Justice and Attorney-General prior to appointment, unless otherwise exempt.
- Employees who are permanently appointed to Queensland Health may be required to undertake a period of probation appropriate to the appointment.
- All relevant health professionals, who in the course of their duties formulate a reasonable suspicion that a child or youth has been abused or neglected in their home/community environment, have a legislative and a duty of care obligation to immediately report such concerns to Child Safety Services, Department of Communities.
- Applicants will be required to give a statement of their employment as a lobbyist within one (1) month of taking up the appointment. Details [Lobbyist Disclosure](#).
- Applicants may be required to disclose any pre-existing illness or injury which may impact on their ability to perform the role. Details are available in section 571 of the [Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003](#).
- In accordance with Government requirements and Queensland Health's commitment to a healthier workplace the Queensland Health Smoking Management Policy supports a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited at all Queensland public hospitals and health facilities and for five (5) metres beyond their boundaries. Queensland Health employees may obtain assistance to quit smoking through staff program *Quit Smoking for Life* program. Information is available at [Quit smoking.....for life!](#)

Townsville Public Health Unit Organisational Chart

