

Role description

Advanced Environmental Health Scientist / Advanced Environmental Health Officer

Status	Permanent Full-Time	Job ad reference	QPHSS550111
Branch and Division	Health Protection Branch QH Public Health and Scientific Services	Contact details	David Ward (07) 3328 9342 david.ward2@health.qld.gov.au
Classification	HP5	Salary range	\$140,767 - \$146,883 per annum + super
Location	Herston	Closing date	Thursday, 11 April 2024

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)

Under the leadership of the Deputy Director General, QPHaSS 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. A scope of service that covers the whole State across four key pillars; Pathology Queensland; Biomedical Technology Services, Forensic and Scientific Services and Public Health.

Health Protection and Regulation Branch within the Public health Pillar is responsible for 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, medicines and poisons safety, healthcare legislation and chemical safety.

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 purpose of the role is to provide high-level policy advice on state-wide operational practices, service improvement activities and risks from significant environmental health hazards and provides high-level legislative and policy advice on these issues to line managers, senior management, and stakeholders both within and outside the discipline.

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.
- Fulfil the responsibilities of this role per Queensland Health's core values, as outlined above.
- Integrate knowledge of both environmental and human health systems to anticipate, assess, and address existing and potential risks to human health from environmental hazards.
- Provide specialist policy and technical advice about legislative requirements, in particular for a range of environmental hazards including hazardous chemicals, physical and biological hazards, and general environmental health to a range of key stakeholders, including the Minister and Director-General.
- Provide authoritative advice in the development, coordination, implementation, risk management, and evaluation of state and national programs regarding the control of public health risks from environmental hazards.
- Lead the development and implementation of legislation and other interventions to support the effective delivery of regulatory controls for environmental hazards through multidisciplinary collaboration and the application of expert scientific and technical knowledge.

- Use an expert level of environmental health scientific knowledge to develop and contribute to the development of evidence-based options to address current and emerging complex environmental health issues of significance to the State and assess the implications of each option to formulate appropriate and measurable program goals, objectives, and strategies.
- Prepare comprehensive written and oral reports and presentations on health impacts of environmental-related health hazards.

Reporting/work relationships

The Advanced Environmental Health Officer/Advanced Environmental Health Scientist, Environmental Hazards Unit, in the Health Protection and Regulation Branch, reports to the Manager, Environmental Hazards, Science and Regulation, Environmental Hazards Unit, in the Health Protection and Regulation Branch, Department of Health.

The number of direct reports is NIL.

Mandatory qualifications, registrations and other requirements

Environmental Health Scientist

- A tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification in:
 - science or applied science majoring in chemistry, physics or biological science.
 - medical, toxicology or environmental science.

Desirable qualifications: To meet the competencies required for this position, it is highly desirable that applicants have:

- a master's degree or PhD (or substantial progress towards the completion of a PhD) in a relevant scientific discipline. and
- meet the eligibility criteria for membership of the Australia College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment (<https://actra.org.au/>)

Note: For establishment and management purposes under Schedule 3 of the Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 4) 2022 this position is deemed to be of the discipline Scientist – Environmental Health

Environmental Health Officer

- Possession of at least a tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification that is accredited by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health which entitles the holder to membership in the discipline of Environmental Health Officer as specified in the Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 4) 2022.
- It is a condition of employment for this role for the employee to be, and remain, vaccinated against the following vaccine-preventable diseases during their employment (Health Employment Directive No. 01/16):
 - measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
 - varicella (chicken pox)
 - pertussis (whooping cough)
 - hepatitis B
 - tuberculosis

Specific working conditions

- Participate in the branch 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.

Role fit.

The essential requirements for this role are:

- Demonstrated specialist-level knowledge, skills and expertise in contemporary environmental health practice or environmental health science - particularly toxicology.
- Demonstrated high-level ability to apply evidence-based principles to facilitate novel, complex evidence-based decisions and provide authoritative advice to a range of audiences, including environmental health colleagues, senior managers and other stakeholders on issues relating to environmental hazards.
- Demonstrated ability to lead change through quality and service improvement projects and activities and provide clinical supervision of personnel.
- Demonstrated ability to lead, implement and manage investigations or research projects, and to critically analyse data.
- 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 with a demonstrated flexibility in approach to work and working environment and 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:

- Leads Strategically - Thinks critically and acts on the broader purpose of the system.
- Leads change in complex environments – Embraces change and leads with focus and optimism in an environment of complexity and ambiguity.
- Drives accountability and outcomes - Demonstrates accountability for the execution and quality of results through professionalism, persistence and transparency.
- 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 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.