



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/05/2025

Cross continent recognition will help boost profession amid recruitment struggles

The bodies representing Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and in Australia have signed an agreement which could help boost recruitment into the profession in each country.

The Presidents of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and Environmental Health Australia (EHA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which develops a clear pathway for EHOs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to be able to practice in Australia and vice versa.

Environmental health is one of the hardest professional roles to fill in the four countries with many vacancies remaining open for months and the chronic shortage of EHOs is causing concern for the future of public health protection as a result.

CIEH President Mark Elliott and EHA President Melissa Burn signed the agreement following the culmination of many years of negotiation and mapping of competencies between the countries.

It is hoped that this agreement could be used as a blueprint for similar MoU's between other countries and help tackle the workforce challenges in environmental health globally.

CIEH President Mark Elliott said:

“The signing of the MoU with our counterparts in Australia marks a significant and exciting milestone in the history of the environmental health profession in our countries. England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Australia share ongoing challenges in terms of recruitment and the future of the profession is under threat without action such as this being taken.

“We hope this agreement will open up doors and remove barriers for EHOs, should they wish to relocate, to utilise their wide armoury of skills and knowledge for the benefit of communities in our countries and help boost under pressure environmental health workforces.”

Environmental Health Programme Leader at Liverpool John Moores University, Graeme Mitchell, said:

“For those of us who have spent our career in environmental health and are passionate about the profession this agreement is an exciting development, which will undoubtedly help to make studying environmental health an even more attractive proposition with the increased possibilities and options this MoU represents.”

EHA President Melissa Burn said:

“This MoU acknowledges the global nature of environmental health. It enhances the environmental health qualification, making it a more attractive option given the widened accessibility of opportunities.”

Professor of Environmental Health at Flinders University, South Australia Kirstin Ross said:

“This agreement provides a clear pathway for environmental health professionals to follow to allow them to practice in a different country, and excitingly, provides a blueprint for other countries to undertake similar MoU’s.”

--- ENDS ---

For media enquiries;

James Brindle (CIEH), PR and Social Media Officer:

telephone 07778 339412 or email j.brindle@cieh.org

Samantha Dickson (EHA), National Communications Officer:

telephone 0423437732 or email samantha.dickson@eh.org.au

Notes to editors

About the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is the professional body for environmental health representing over 7,000 members in the public, private and third sectors. Building on its rich heritage, CIEH ensures the highest standards of professional competence in its members, in the belief that through environmental health people’s health can be improved.

Our members who work around the world, improving lives and demonstrating excellence across all areas of environmental health including food, public health, housing, environmental protection, and health and safety.

Environmental health has an important and unique contribution to make to improving public health and reducing health inequalities. CIEH campaigns to ensure that government policy addresses the needs of communities and business in achieving and maintaining improvements to our environment and our health.

For more information visit www.cieh.org

About Environmental Health Australia

Environmental Health Australia (EHA) is the peak national organisation for environmental health professionals in Australia. Established in 1936, EHA represents and supports members across all states and territories, advocating for the vital role Environmental Health Officers play in protecting public health. Through professional development, education, policy leadership and national collaboration, EHA works to strengthen the environmental health profession and promote safe, healthy, and sustainable communities across Australia. EHA is a founding member of the International Federation of Environmental Health.

"We protect people from hazards in their environment!"