

Role description

Senior Environmental Health Officer

Status	Permanent full time	Job ad reference	QPHSS/626374
Branch and Division	Health Protection and Regulation Branch, Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services	Contact details	Vanessa Lunney (07) 3328 9526 Vanessa.Lunney@health.qld.gov.au
Classification	HP4	Salary range	\$128,169 - \$137,918 per annum + super and government benefits
Location	Herston	Closing date	Sunday 6 th April 2025

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. This includes 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 scope of service 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 Senior Environmental Health Officer performs an advisory and coordination role using high level environmental health knowledge and skills to propose, understand and enact appropriate governance arrangements to improve public health responses to incidents, major events, and mass gatherings whilst prioritising community wellbeing.

The position works across the Branch and other public health functions within Queensland Health, engaging with stakeholders at a range of levels to consult on and coordinate input into policies, reports and other significant documents.

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.
- Prepare and provide high level public health advice in relation to incidents, major events, and mass gatherings in Queensland.
- Utilise skills and knowledge to apply findings from relevant literature, investigations, and research studies to develop and coordinate public health input into policies, reports and other significant documents.
- In consultation with stakeholders, lead the review of statewide public health policy relating to mass gathering events.
- Provide written and oral reports and presentations on requirements, legal and legislative obligations.
- Conduct and facilitate disaster management staff training, planning exercises and facilitate debriefs following responses to public health incidents and major events on behalf of the Health Protection and Regulation Branch.
- Effectively represent the Branch and the Department on key committees relating to public health incidents, major events and mass gatherings as required on behalf of the Executive Director relaying relevant information.

- Establish and operate the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre during a public health incident as required.
- Undertake the role of Public Health Liaison Officer in the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre or State Disaster Coordination Centre as required.

Reporting/work relationships

The position reports to the Director – Office of the Executive Director.

The number of direct reports is nil.

Mandatory qualifications, registrations, and other requirements

- Hold at least a tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification that is accredited by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health.
- There may be a requirement to work outside standard business hours as part of an on-call roster during incidents or disaster events.

Role fit

The essential requirements for this role are:

- Demonstrated high level of knowledge, expertise and skill in environmental health and the ability to independently undertake all routine environmental health clinical practice responsibilities, including disaster and incident management.
- Demonstrated ability to implement and manage specific investigations or research projects, and to critically analyse information and data to provide evidence-based environmental health advice to colleagues, senior management, and other stakeholders.
- 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 – Recognises how organisational events and issues impact on the work of the team.
- Makes insightful decisions – Remains composed during high-stakes situations.
- Drives accountability and outcomes – Welcomes challenges in the delivery of work and demonstrates persistence in working through obstacles.
- Pursues continuous growth – Actively seeks feedback and modifies approach to enhance own effectiveness.

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>)
- Queensland Health is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, building a culture of respect that promotes [human rights](#) and creating a workforce that reflects the communities we serve.
- We encourage everyone to apply for our advertised roles, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, language, sexual orientation, ability or family responsibilities. We recognise the value of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. If you have any support or access requirements, please advise us at the time of application.

- Queensland Health 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. Queensland Health is an equal-opportunity employer.
- 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.