

Role Description

Senior Research and Innovation Officer

Classification: ASO7

Group: Industry, Innovation and Small Business

Position Number: P62285

Team: Research and Innovation

About Us

The Department of State Development (DSD) is the South Australian Government's lead economic development agency.

Our mission is to drive sustainable economic growth in South Australia by increasing industrial and workforce capability, capacity, collaboration and resilience. We take pride in hiring the right people for the right jobs and offer an attractive, flexible workplace.

For more information about our agency, please visit:

Department of State Development | statedevelopment.sa.gov.au

About The Role

The Research and Innovation (R&I) team works collaboratively with researchers and research institutes, entrepreneurs, businesses and investors to facilitate connections, provide advice and position South Australia as a destination for research and innovation. We are focused on strengthening the R&I sector, boosting collaboration and support translation of research and innovation into economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The Senior Research and Innovation Officer works with researchers and research institutes, industry, early-stage companies, and other participants in the R&I ecosystem to provide expert advice and to develop and deliver significant policies and programs that are strategic priorities for DSD. The role is a term position with a focus on delivering the Summer Plan Industry R&D Program supporting South Australia's commercial fishing and aquaculture industry to test innovative processes and products to respond and recover from the impacts of brevetoxin and the Algal Bloom in South Australia. The Industry R&D Program addresses knowledge gaps and urgent actions to support industry recovery, as well as long-term resilience building. The role works across DSD teams and government, industry and a broad cohort of stakeholders to manage programs and projects with responsibilities for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure successful program design and delivery.

What you will do (results to be achieved)

1. Lead and maintain stakeholder and customer engagement across the R&I ecosystem, providing expert guidance and direct referrals to relevant programs, expertise, and funding opportunities to support their initiatives and challenges.
2. Lead the development of new projects and programs that support the successful delivery of DSD's strategic objectives and support the South Australian R&I ecosystem.
3. Provide oversight of major projects and programs, including contracting, managing funding agreements, and evaluating progress, outcomes, and performance data – while also delivering project-management oversight for intra- and interdepartmental initiatives involving multiple stakeholders.

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4. Evaluate Expression of Interests and Full Applications and conduct market, financial, and other due diligence analysis reports, as required, to aid in the assessment of co-investment and funding requests for programs and initiatives that are implemented through the Department of State Development.
5. Oversee complex program performance reporting, analysis and evaluation, ensuring compliance, effective program delivery and maximising measurable impact and value to South Australia.
6. Drive continuous improvement of departmental and contract-management processes by applying initiative and expert judgement to enhance efficiency, compliance, oversight and operational excellence, while supporting staff capability development through mentoring and on-the-job training in collaboration with the Manager, Research Programs.
7. Write and prepare briefing papers and minutes for ministers and departmental executives to provide high-level advisory, information and responses to enquires. Manage and communicate complex and sensitive information including commercially confidential information.
8. Contribute to the development of government strategies and action plans that are intended to deliver against DSD's strategic priorities in establishing a high-performance research and innovation ecosystem and growing innovative industries and business.
9. Attend and represent DSD at conferences, functions and events to engage and liaise with R&I networks and promote the services and supports of DSD and relevant stakeholders.
10. Demonstrate and uphold the DSD Customer Service Principles and Service Standards in the provision of high quality, consistent and professional service to our customers through being responsive, knowledgeable, timely and respectful in all interactions.

The Capabilities You Will Bring (key competencies)

Essential Technical Experience and Knowledge:

- Demonstrated understanding of, and experience with, research and research infrastructure, startups and scale-up businesses, and the issues that impact on research, research translation and commercialisation, along with in-depth understanding of the funding requirements and opportunities.
- Demonstrated expertise in program design and delivery, including advanced program and project management skills and experience, and the management of complex, multi-year contract management.
- Proven experience in performance measurement and reporting, and in analysing and evaluating program outcomes and impact supported by an understanding of risk management and financial analysis.
- Experience in working with a broad range of stakeholders and customers across industry and academia and building trusted networks to drive organisational outcomes and goals.
- In-depth knowledge of issues affecting research and innovation and business viability in the South Australian economy and a detailed understanding of relevant state and federal business policies and initiatives.

Personal Skills:

- Ability to work independently and think strategically, conceptually and creatively and analyse and resolve complex business problems, at both strategic and operational level.
- Ability to communicate clearly, concisely and effectively both verbally and in writing with people at all levels including proven ability to negotiate with a broad range of clients and stakeholders in a tactful, sensitive and diplomatic manner.
- Ability to work autonomously and manage competing tasks, and high volumes of work effectively, including working to deadlines and delivering and achieving high standard business outcomes.
- Demonstrates strong attention to detail and excellent time-management skills to deliver high-quality outcomes in a complex, fast-paced environment.

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- Model Public Sector principles in areas such as ethical decision making, Work Health Safety (WHS) and injury management, equity/diversity, and change management.

Qualifications:

- **Essential:** Nil
- **Desirable:** Tertiary qualifications in a discipline relevant to the position.

Reporting / Working Relationships

- Reports to: Manager, Research Programs
- Direct Reports: Nil.
- Works with:
 - Manager – Research Programs, Director, R&I and R&I team members.
 - Relevant staff within DSD as necessary while fulfilling their key roles and responsibilities.
 - Stakeholders across the R&I ecosystem

DSD Working Conditions

- Compliance with Government legislation, Code of Ethics for the SA Public Sector, DSD policies and procedures, including ethical/accountable resources and information management, WHS and injury management, risk management, and the access/equity/diversity strategies of the public sector.
- Out of hours work may be required.
- Intrastate and interstate travel may be required.
- The incumbent may be assigned to another position at this remuneration level or equivalent, including across teams in DSD.
- The incumbent will be required to maintain a safe working environment by adopting appropriate hazard management practices consistent with the role.
- The successful applicants will be required to demonstrate they have undergone appropriate assessment prior to being employed
 - National Police Check (NPC)
 - General Employment Probity Check (DHS)
 - Working with Children Check (DHS)
 - Baseline Vetting
 - Negative Vetting 1

Our Core Values

Be part of a high performing, collaborative, agile and innovative organisational culture. Through a network of multi-disciplinary teams, we operate with internal project structures that enable adaptable, flexible, and agile ways of working. This is underpinned by our Core Values of:



Service

We proudly serve the community and Government of South Australia



Professionalism

We strive for excellence



Trust

We have confidence in the ability of others



Respect

We value every individual



Sustainability

We work to get the best results for the current and future generation of South Australia



Collaboration & Engagement

We create solutions together



Honesty & Integrity

We act truthfully, consistently and fairly



Courage & Tenacity

We never give up