

Role description

General information

Title:	Manager Diagnostic Services			Classification:	PO4	
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity	Business unit:	Diagnostic Services	
Type of appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of duty:	37.5 Hours Per Week	Location:	Glenside	

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

PIRSA's Animal Biosecurity program protects and facilitates market access and livestock productivity, public health and consumer confidence through the health, welfare, quality, safety and image of South Australian livestock and livestock products, and other animals. Global trade access for livestock and livestock products increasingly requires demonstrated minimum standards of animal health and welfare. The Animal Biosecurity Branch provides a system for animal disease early warning and early detection of exotic diseases; develops programs for data collection to allow monitoring of animal health status and proof of disease freedom; and maintains capacity for emergency animal disease management.

The Animal Biosecurity diagnostic services program manages national and state veterinary diagnostic policies, strategies and service delivery to protect and facilitate market access and the early reporting of emergency animal diseases. The Manager of Diagnostic Services has responsibility for development and implementation of veterinary diagnostic services to ensure effective surveillance and monitoring of animal health in South Australia. This includes managing the relationship between PIRSA and veterinary diagnostic service providers, ensuring contract compliance, quality assurance, and contributing to defining future service delivery options. The role will also provide strategic and scientific leadership in veterinary diagnostics and animal health policy at state and national levels, including providing high-level technical advice to the Animal Biosecurity Branch.

The role requires strong knowledge of relevant regulatory and technical requirements and standards for veterinary diagnostic services, and involves communication and collaboration with other Branches and Divisions in PIRSA, as well as national and local organisations such as the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, Animal Health Australia, Wildlife Health Australia, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and equivalent agencies in other Australian jurisdictions. The incumbent will also be required to assist with laboratory service provision for other hazards and to participate in emergency responses.

Key accountabilities

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of Biosecurity's strategic objectives, specific to Animal Health.
- Works with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure the effective delivery of veterinary diagnostic services, including managing and reporting on the administrative and infrastructure/asset requirements of the State veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Leads the development of South Australian specific diagnostic protocols and procedures for the detection and response to notifiable and emergency animal diseases, ensuring alignment with nationally policies and procedures, and strategic adoption of innovations in veterinary diagnostics and data management.
- Supports the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services in the provision of high-level strategic and technical advice in addressing key animal health issues that impact, or may potentially impact, on Biosecurity Division delivering on its business objectives and work in collaboration with the key stakeholders to contribute to strategies to address them.
- Actively undertakes management responsibilities, ensuring compliance with requirements as defined by relevant whole of government and departmental legislation, policies, and guidelines.
- Manages human and financial resources and allocates resources according to priorities.
- Initiates, maintains and manages relationships with key internal and external stakeholders, gains cooperation, and influences views on complex, contentious and sensitive matters within established parameters.

Role description

Key deliverables / results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective delivery of veterinary diagnostic services for the detection and response to notifiable and emergency animal diseases in South Australia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage and report on the administrative and infrastructure/asset requirements of the State veterinary diagnostic laboratory. ○ Develop fit-for-purpose diagnostic protocols and procedures, aligned to national policies and procedures. ○ Identify and adopt strategic innovations in veterinary diagnostics and data management. • Provides high level strategic advice and support to the Chief Veterinary Officer and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services while balancing complex and competing demands. • Supports the Chief Veterinary Officer and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services through significant contributions in the development of animal health and welfare policy and strategy at state and national levels to support the achievement and future direction of SA Animal Biosecurity programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and maintains strategic relationships with relevant internal and external stakeholders to address diagnostic elements of key animal biosecurity issues. • Expertly contributes to the preparation of high-quality submissions, reports, briefings and presentations to support Animal Biosecurity policy development and operational planning for diagnostic services provision to Animal Biosecurity. • Maintains an awareness of regulatory requirements and industry standards with respect to quality, timeliness and costs of veterinary diagnostic services. • Staff are effectively led, coordinated, guided, and developed, to ensure delivery of high-quality Animal Health programs and to enhance personnel capability and capacity to achieve work outcomes. • Contribute to the preparedness of PIRSA to respond to emergency events including participating in emergency response planning and training and undertaking a senior management role during an emergency event. |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role reports to Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services. • Develops and maintains sound working relationships with other Animal Biosecurity staff and senior managers across Biosecurity Division and PIRSA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works closely with the Contractor for veterinary diagnostic services provision to PIRSA. • Collaborates and builds strong working relationships with key stakeholders across State and Commonwealth Government agencies and industry. |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's licence and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when [applying for a role](#).
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.

Qualifications

- Essential: A degree in veterinary science, laboratory science, bioinformatics, veterinary public health, epidemiology, or related field.

Role description

Capabilities	
Capability	Behaviours
<p>Professional and Technical Knowledge Demonstrates the professional and technical knowledge and the specific skills relevant to the role.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates expert knowledge of veterinary diagnostic services, animal health surveillance systems, quality assurance frameworks and relevant legislative and regulatory requirements. • Provides authoritative professional and technical advice on diagnostic policy, protocols, emergency animal disease preparedness and service delivery at state and national levels. • Maintains contemporary knowledge of scientific developments, emerging risks and innovations in veterinary diagnostics and data management. • Applies advanced judgement in managing complex technical issues, balancing scientific rigor, operational feasibility and strategic objectives. • Is recognised as a credible technical expert by internal stakeholders, government partners and external organisations. • Integrates contract, financial, risk and resource management considerations into diagnostic service delivery decisions.
<p>Strategic Focus Maintains a strategic overview of animal biosecurity and diagnostic service delivery, ensuring alignment with PIRSA priorities and national frameworks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains a strategic overview of animal biosecurity and diagnostic service delivery, ensuring alignment with PIRSA priorities and national frameworks. • Translates strategic objectives into operational plans and initiatives that strengthen surveillance, preparedness and response capability. • Anticipates emerging animal health risks and diagnostic service needs and positions the organisation to respond effectively.
<p>Influencing Influencing others towards a desired way of thinking or course of action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds logical, evidence-based arguments to influence decisions on complex, sensitive or contested diagnostic and policy matters. • Uses professional credibility, networks and strategic insight to influence outcomes in national forums and interjurisdictional settings. • Adapts influencing approaches to suit different stakeholders, balancing organisational interests with collaboration and goodwill.
<p>People Management Employing approaches to motivate, inspire, develop and empower staff to enhance and optimise their capacity to achieve business goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads and supports staff to deliver high-quality diagnostic and animal health outcomes through clear direction, coaching and performance management. • Builds workforce capability by identifying development needs, supporting learning opportunities and fostering professional growth. • Promotes a positive, inclusive and accountable workplace culture aligned with PIRSA values and public sector expectations.

HRMS no.:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	A7422775
Delegate approval:	Executive Director, Biosecurity			Date:	08/04/2026
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	Kate Gautier, Principal HR Business Partner, PIRSA				