

Role Description

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General information

Title:	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services			Classification:	PO5
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity		Business Unit: Disease & Diagnostics
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

The Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services plays a crucial role within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) by supporting the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in planning and executing the Animal Biosecurity program and its related sub-programs, projects, and initiatives. These encompass both terrestrial and aquatic species, directly aiding in the development and improvement of domestic and international market access and supporting the mitigation of biosecurity risks to the community and livestock industries. The role provides influential senior leadership, overseeing the Disease Surveillance team and Diagnostic Services teams while contributing to PIRSA's overarching biosecurity objectives.

The Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, (DCVO) Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services works closely with the CVO to influence state and national animal biosecurity policies and strategies, providing high-level strategic and operational advice to enhance program outcomes in surveillance, disease management, emergency preparedness, response, traceability, and legislative compliance. On occasion, when acting as the CVO, the DCVO represents South Australia (SA) on national animal biosecurity committees, including the Animal Health Committee, Animal Health Australia, and Emergency Animal Disease Consultative Committees, thus ensuring SA's interests are advocated at a national level.

Operating with a high degree of autonomy, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services demonstrates exceptional professional independence, initiative, and judgement, supporting the CVO and providing strategic direction to a team of veterinary and technical specialists. This team is dedicated to developing and managing disease surveillance, disease control, livestock welfare, and emergency response programs throughout South Australia. Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Disease Surveillance & Diagnostic Services is also responsible for leading external project teams of experts when responding to significant biosecurity incidents and incursions, ensuring coordinated and effective responses.

Key Accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directly supports the CVO in leading and strategically managing biosecurity surveillance, preparedness and response operations for animal health in collaboration with state and national stakeholders.• Applies and integrates specialised expertise, principles, procedures and policies into the organisation to improve overall performance and delivery of outcomes.• Provides expert scientific and policy advice on animal health policy issues and biosecurity strategies.• Manages pressures associated with meeting multiple deadlines and working within financial and political restraints. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates clear understanding of the organisation's strategic plan and strategic objectives of whole of state government biosecurity imperatives, and how this interacts with other jurisdictions, and commonwealth directions.• Manages risk, governance and due diligence processes and builds organisational capabilities• Demonstrates a passion for excellence and consistently models quality outputs, initiative, and flexibility.• Communications ideas and complex information in a manner that is understood and received well by the intended audience. |
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Key Deliverables / Results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports strategic program leadership and delivery in animal biosecurity, covering surveillance, emergency response, traceability, disease management and welfare.• Supports the CVO lead 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.• Manage the development of responsive and up to date animal biosecurity policies, procedures and compliance systems to underpin delivery of best practice outcomes for the State.• Provides high level strategic advice and support to the Chief Veterinary Officer and other senior Biosecurity staff when required.• Expertly prepares and co-ordinates the preparation of high-quality submission, reports, briefings and presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops and maintains strategic relationships across government, industry, and the community, delivering high level technical inputs that will advance the management of biosecurity within SA.• Provides influential and responsive leadership of the Animal Biosecurity professionals and contributes to achievement of corporate governance objectives and cross agency initiatives.• Represents the state (when acting in the CVO role) and supports the CVO in meetings and other engagements.• Liaises on behalf of the CVO as required with government and industry representatives while maintaining astute political judgement.• Undertakes high level emergency management functions (Incident controller, Incident management team function manager or CVO Unit) to support biosecurity incident response demands as and when required. |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role reports to Chief Veterinary Officer• The role builds working relationships with relevant SA Government stakeholders and collaborates, influences and negotiates with key personnel in other State and National agencies• The Deputy CVO works closely with Animal Biosecurity project managers, regional leaders, industry leaders and senior operational staff of other government agencies within SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Deputy CVO builds and maintains strong, collaborative relationships with SA industry leaders, veterinarians, animal focused associations and education providers and state and national livestock producer organisations (e.g. Animal Health Australia).• Works collaboratively with advisory and working groups and steering committees to provide quality advice on and influence, the effective delivery of animal biosecurity objectives.• Represents the State on behalf of the CVO when required at national and international forums and interfaces with a range of specialised interstate private animal health practitioners and agencies on animal biosecurity issues. |
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Requirements

- A national police check will be required.
- Possession of a current driver's licence and willingness to drive.
- Considerable out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel will be required.
- You acknowledge your [work, health and safety obligations](#) and [our expectations](#)
- 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: An appropriate veterinary qualification at a tertiary level, registrable in South Australia

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Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates thorough knowledge of biosecurity policy, legislation, techniques, standards, directions, issues research, development and engagement, particularly associated with animal biosecurity within the South Australian context. Recognised expertise particularly in the area of disease surveillance, emergency animal disease preparedness and response, endemic disease management, traceability and legislation.	- Leads strategic development, coordination, and implementation of animal biosecurity initiatives for the government, informed by in-depth knowledge of the terrestrial and aquatic industries and key biosecurity trends. - Demonstrates thorough understanding of South Australian biosecurity standards, legislation, and frameworks, with strong experience in animal health program planning and operational procedures. - Applies high-level analytical, investigative, and conceptual skills to develop innovative solutions for animal biosecurity risks. - Provides expert technical and professional advice, supporting informed decision-making and policy development. - Communicates complex technical knowledge clearly to non-technical colleagues, ensuring accessible information transfer. - Keeps current on emerging animal disease risks, diagnostics, and management practices. - Assimilates new, complex information quickly and contributes effectively across interdisciplinary topics. - Advises on and influences biosecurity standards, policies, and strategic frameworks within government processes.
Relationship building and maintaining Generates genuine partnerships, interacts confidently, and employs astute perception with strong listening and questioning skills in complex or unfamiliar situations; able to relate to and communicate with people from diverse 'cultures', locations, and ages	- Builds positive, genuine relationships in which to create shared frameworks and understandings. - Comfortable with personal and formal power, skilfully handling issues of power and rank in relationship. - Able to engage quickly and genuinely, and be engaging, with a wide range of people, issues and intensities of activity. - Meets people at their own level, using knowledge, skill and intuition to include, develop and extend them.
Written communication Expertly prepares written material e.g. submissions, reports, speeches, press releases etc; writing on behalf of the agency; communicates complex or delicate issues, selecting language, tone and format to suit target recipients.	- Writes skilfully, with awareness of the impact of communication on individuals, organisations, and communities. - Conveys complex information which is both accurate and sensitive to the social/political environment. - Sets up feedback loops to monitor the effectiveness of written communications. - Prepares high level documents and material for publication.
Planning and Organising (Work Management) A specialist who demonstrates high level expertise in devising and driving the most difficult plans, which have significant impact on the business.	- Develops high level strategies and turns them into plans that can be implemented, using a collaborative approach. - Identifies capabilities and resources needed across all aspects of the job. - Manages pressure associated with meeting multiple deadlines. - Operates within time, financial and political constraints.

HRMS No:	P60409	ANZCO code:		Objective ID:	A6585400
Delegate approval:	Chief Executive, PIRSA			Date:	14/2/2025
Approved and Classified by People and Culture: 14 February 2025 A6715260					

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