

Role description

General information

Title:	Senior Veterinary Officer (Diagnostic Services)			Classification:	PO3	
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity		Business unit:	Disease Surveillance
Type of appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of duty:	37.5	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. The Animal Biosecurity group 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 purpose of this role is to support the delivery of veterinary diagnostic services, including building PIRSA's capacity to respond to the risk posed by emergency animal diseases (EADs).

The Senior Veterinary Officer (Diagnostic Services) will provide support to emergency preparedness and early detection of EADs through monitoring and management of veterinary diagnostic services. They will work with other PIRSA staff and service providers on the delivery of veterinary diagnostic services to ensure effective surveillance and monitoring of animal health in South Australia. Working closely with the Manager Diagnostic Services, the Veterinary Officer (Diagnostic Services) will assist with day-to-day management of the interface with the Contractor for diagnostic services provision to PIRSA, development of policy frameworks and operating guidelines for testing and reporting of emergency animal diseases and provide technical advice to animal biosecurity programs. They will also support development of policy and planning for EAD diagnostic testing and reporting during an EAD response. The incumbent will also be required to assist with laboratory service provision for other hazards and to participate in emergency responses.

Key accountabilities

- Builds capacity in emergency animal disease preparedness, with a focus on provision of appropriate veterinary diagnostic services, including contributing to the investigation and provision of technical advice to support the development of emergency animal disease laboratory diagnostic capacity.
- Works collaboratively to develop South Australian specific diagnostic protocols and procedures for the response to notifiable and emergency animal diseases.
- Works with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure effective delivery of veterinary diagnostic services, including managing and reporting on the administrative and infrastructure/asset requirements of the State veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Develops knowledge in, and facilitates, as appropriate, innovations in data management and veterinary diagnostics.
- Collaborates with relevant internal and external stakeholders to address diagnostic elements of key animal biosecurity issues.
- Prepares good quality written advice, reports, and briefings, to support Animal Health policy development and operational planning for diagnostic services provision to Animal Health.
- Develops an awareness of industry standards with respect to quality, timeliness and costs of veterinary diagnostic services.
- Develops and implements relevant training for PIRSA staff.
- Participates in emergency responses for all hazards.

Role description

Key deliverables / results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical and strategic support is provided to the Diagnostic Services Manager, Animal Biosecurity senior management, and other PIRSA users of veterinary diagnostic services.• Capacity in emergency animal disease preparedness, with a focus on diagnostic services utilising both built laboratory facilities and point-of-care technologies, is developed.• Efficient processing of diagnostic services accounts is achieved and reported to Animal Biosecurity management.• South Australian specific diagnostic protocols and procedures for the response to notifiable and emergency animal diseases are developed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovations in data management of veterinary diagnostic data and reporting are facilitated in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.• Good quality reports are prepared to support Animal Biosecurity policy and strategic planning for diagnostic services provision to Animal Biosecurity.• Day to day interface between PIRSA and the Contractor for veterinary diagnostic services is managed in line with contractual obligations.• Contribute to the preparedness of PIRSA to respond to emergency events including participating in emergency disease response training and undertake 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 the Manager, Diagnostic Services within the Disease Surveillance business unit.• Works closely with the Contractor for veterinary diagnostic services provision to PIRSA.• Liaise with PIRSA Disease Surveillance and other business units requiring veterinary diagnostic services delivery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaises with PIRSA Epidemiology and Risk, Emergency Animal Disease and Emergency Management business units on emergency animal disease preparedness and response relating to diagnostic services and laboratory data management. |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's license and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and occasional inter / intrastate travel, including overnight absences, 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
- Desirable: Post-graduate qualifications and/or experience in veterinary diagnostics.

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Capabilities					
Capability		Behaviours			
Professional and Technical Knowledge Demonstrates sound knowledge across animal health and disease issues, with in-depth knowledge of notifiable disease management. Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of laboratory operations.		- Has an in-depth knowledge of Emergency Animal Diseases and developments in livestock disease surveillance and control, and is able to provide expert professional and technical advice to support decision making in the area of laboratory diagnostics - Demonstrates up to date knowledge of diagnostic test types, principles of test validation and interpretation of test results. - Demonstrates an awareness of the principles of operation and management of diagnostic laboratories. - Interprets and applies relevant legislation in the field of animal disease diagnostics and related issues. - Maintains an up-to-date knowledge of major issues facing veterinary diagnostics and significant developments in related areas. - Identifies, analyses, evaluates, and treats risks within area of responsibility to achieve outcomes. - Demonstrated ability to manage complex tasks.			
Attention to detail Ensures that work and or information is complete and accurate; paying attention to detail to ensure work is timely, accurate and reliable.		- Sets up procedures for checking accuracy of work/information to ensure high performance standards are met. - Uses a planned, structured, and evidence-based approach. - Observes accurately and discerns details of potential importance, including ensuring that any potential problems are foreseen and managed.			
Planning and organizing (work management) Develops and manages efficient work plans for complex projects or activities, plans resource availability and use, and acts autonomously within the scope of duties, so that work is completed on time and in line with objectives.		- Identifies capabilities and resources needed to get the job done and can move projects forward without constant supervision. - Manages numerous tasks in priority order allowing sufficient time to meet deadlines. - Operates effectively within time, financial and political restraints. - Monitors and reviews progress of activities and revises priorities appropriately			
Systems and processes orientation Develops and monitors complex systems, processes and procedures, and makes effective adjustments to manage issues, with a high level of independence.		- Shows understanding of, and capitalises on, the use of existing systems to achieve organisational goals - Understands the relationships between internal and external systems and processes - Proactively deals with problems and interruptions to systems and processes for diagnostic services delivery and reporting. - Keeps up-to-date with changes to systems and processes for diagnostic services data management.			
HRMS no.:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate approval:		Nathan Rhodes – Executive Director, Biosecurity			Date:
Signature:					
Approved and classified by People and Culture:		[Date] [Reference number]			