Role description

General information

Title:	Chief Veterinary Officer Advisor			**Classification:**	PO4		
Division:	Biosecurity	**Branch:**	Animal Biosecurity		**Business unit:**	H5 Bird Flu Program	
Type of appointment:	Term Contract	**Hours of duty:**	37.5	**Location:**	Metropolitan Adelaide		

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 primary purpose of the role is to provide high-level strategic, analytical and technical advice to support the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in setting direction and making timely, evidence-informed decisions for the H5 bird flu response program.

The role contributes to delivering the agency's priorities by supporting South Australia's coordinated response to H5 bird flu and managing its risks to primary industries, wildlife, the environment and the community. It supports Animal Biosecurity objectives by integrating scientific, economic, legal, operational, political and social considerations into practical H5 bird flu response strategies and advice.

Key accountabilities

- Providing authoritative, timely and evidence-informed advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer on complex H5 bird flu response issues.
- Synthesising intelligence, technical evidence and stakeholder perspectives to identify material risks, implications and decision points.
- Leading the development and assessment of strategic options, policy positions and alternative approaches for H5 bird flu surveillance, investigation, risk management and response in collaboration with Planning.
- Ensuring advice and proposed strategies align with relevant legislation, national H5 bird flu arrangements and plans, approved program and response direction, and government policy.
- Applying independent professional judgement to resolve complex, ambiguous and high-risk operational and policy issues.
- Maintaining strategic relationships across government, industry, wildlife, research and community sectors to support H5 bird flu situational awareness and coordinated action.
- Influencing response priorities and decisions by presenting clear, balanced and defensible recommendations.
- Coordinating specialist contributors and other CVO Unit resources as delegated by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Key deliverables / results

- Clear, concise and decision-ready strategic advice, briefings and recommendations are delivered within required response timeframes
- Practical alternative strategies are developed to support H5 Bird Flu response aims, with consideration given to their implementation within legislative, policy and operational constraints.
- Robust risk assessments and option analyses are produced, identifying potential consequences, trade-offs and recommended actions to inform CVO decision-making.
- Significant emerging issues, information gaps and stakeholder concerns are identified early and escalated appropriately.
- CVO advice, planning products and approved H5 program and response direction are aligned and consistent.
- Effective information flows and relationships are maintained with key internal and external stakeholders to support coordinated response activities.
- Accurate records of advice, decisions, actions and supporting evidence are maintained.

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- H5 program and response plans, policy, governance papers and executive or ministerial briefings are informed by high-quality strategic and technical advice.

Relationships

- Role reports to the Chief Veterinary Officer and is part of the H5 Bird Flu Program team.
- Works closely with H5 Bird Flu Program Leadership, Planning and other program and response functions.
- Represents PIRSA and maintains strategic relationships with State and Commonwealth agencies, wildlife and environment partners, industry bodies, technical experts, research organisations and other H5 bird flu stakeholders.

Requirements

- 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.
- Must be able to work effectively in a high-pressure emergency management environment and maintain confidentiality.

Qualifications

Essential:

A relevant tertiary qualification in veterinary science, animal health, epidemiology, science, public policy or a related discipline.

Desirable:

Postgraduate qualifications and/or substantial experience in biosecurity, emergency management or government policy.

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional and technical knowledge Demonstrates in-depth professional knowledge relevant to H5 bird flu, animal biosecurity and wildlife disease response, with expert knowledge across several relevant areas.	• Demonstrated experience providing authoritative professional and technical advice, drawing on relevant knowledge and experience to support complex and time-critical decision-making. • Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of H5 bird flu epidemiology, animal disease response arrangements, relevant legislation, emergency management systems and government policy processes. • Demonstrates the ability to integrate scientific, economic, legal, operational, political and social considerations when assessing complex issues and developing advice and recommendations. • Applies knowledge and experience to assimilate complex surveillance, epidemiological, operational and stakeholder information and assess its significance for program strategy and priorities. • Demonstrates the ability to accurately interpret technical information, legislation, plans and policy requirements and apply these to practical response issues. • Identifies when specialist expertise is required and demonstrates the ability to assess the quality, relevance and limitations of technical evidence to inform sound recommendations.

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Analytical thinking Assimilates and analyses high-volume, complex information, perceives implications and makes sound judgements using a logical and systematic approach.	• Synthesises information from multiple disciplines and sources, identifying themes, gaps, assumptions and material risks. • Quickly identifies pertinent issues and assesses the broader implications of possible conclusions and courses of action. • Weighs costs, benefits, risks and likelihood of success to develop balanced, defensible recommendations.
Strategic focus Maintains a strategic overview of agency and response direction while addressing immediate operational issues and changing priorities.	• Translates strategic intent into practical options, priorities and actions for the H5 Bird Flu Program and response. • Holds a broad view of complex issues and anticipates the wider consequences of operational decisions. • Ensures advice remains aligned with approved H5 Bird Flu Program objectives, government priorities and national arrangements.
Influencing Plans to influence agendas and outcomes, using evidence, relationships and strategic leverage to achieve sound decisions and coordinated action.	• Presents complex issues and recommended actions persuasively to senior decision-makers and diverse stakeholders. • Understands differing viewpoints and builds arguments that acknowledge concerns, test assumptions and support a common position. • Builds trust and uses networks strategically to shape expectations, resolve barriers and achieve H5 Bird Flu Program and response objectives.

HRMS no.:		**ANZCO Code:**		**Objective ID:**	
Delegate approval:	Executive Director, Biosecurity			**Date:**	18/11/2026
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	Senior HR Business Partner, Biosecurity				

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