

# Environmental Health

## >> What is an Environmental Health Officer?

Environmental Health Officers are concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect human health. Environmental Health addresses all the physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health, targeting disease prevention and creating health-supportive environments, eg food safety, water quality (drinking and recreational), disease vector management, tobacco control. Environmental health practice addresses emerging health risks arising from the pressures that human development places on the environment, including impacts associated with climate change.

Many of the roles and functions performed by environmental health officers are encompassed within a complex array of Commonwealth, State and Local Government Statutes.

## Where do Environmental Health Officers work in Tasmania?

Environmental Health Officers are employed within Local, State and Commonwealth Governments, and a variety of private enterprise settings, including environmental management consultancies.

## How do Environmental Health Officers work in DHHS?

Environmental Health Officers are involved in a range of roles and functions within the DHHS which include: policy formation; developing and implementing legislation; providing technical, scientific and legislative advice to the public, as well as to local, state and commonwealth governments; providing a critical response role to managing incidents including water contamination and food contamination events; co-ordinating and assisting with the management of communicable disease outbreaks, and involvement in state-wide emergency management activities.

DHHS Environmental Health Officers also assist in the ongoing operations of the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.

## What qualifications are required to practice?

Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health), or deemed equivalent.

### Useful links

<http://www.aieh.org.au>