VETASSESS

Information sheet

# Environmental Health Officer

ANZSCO: 251311

Group A

## About this document

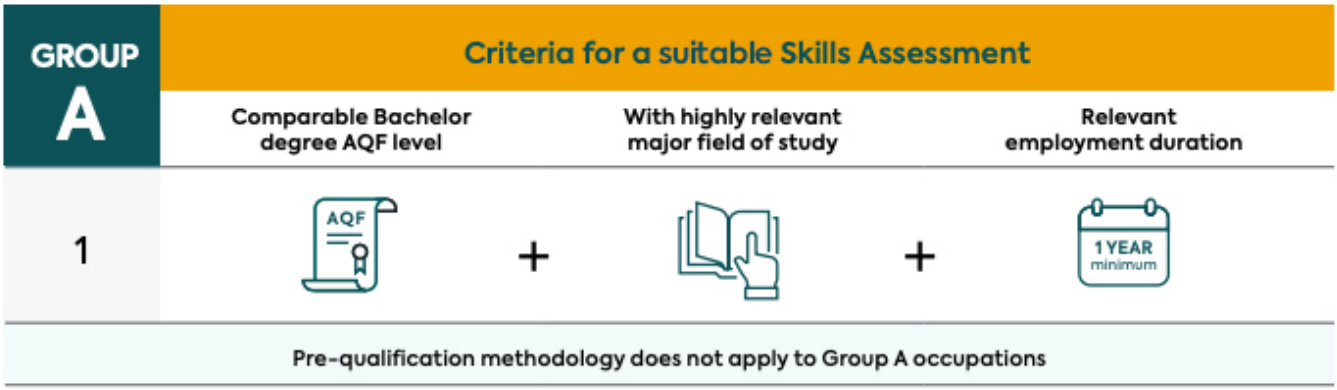
- The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

## Job description

Develops, enforces and evaluates environmental health policies, programs and strategies to improve health outcomes, and oversees the implementation and monitoring of environmental health legislation.

# Environmental Health Officer is a VETASSESS Group A occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher, in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.




The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under**Group A**. Please note that in order to achieve a suitable Skills Assessment Outcome, a suitable assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

**Pathway 1**

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

## Qualification

Environmental Health is the study of recognising, evaluating and controlling environmental factors affecting public health. The course should be accredited under the Course Accreditation Scheme run by Environmental Health Australia (see courses currently listed as accredited courses offered in Australia for EHP attached in the EHPA advice).

For this occupation, registration is required with the state they will work in, and each state has a list of acceptable degrees for this occupation, mainly in Environmental Health (not Envi. Science).

While Food Safety can be part of an Environmental Health degree, Food Science or Food Audit on its own would not be considered highly relevant.

Nutrition or Dietetics are not considered highly relevant for this occupation, they would be closer to Dietitian – 251111.

Medical degrees without environmental health-related studies would also not be considered highly relevant to this occupation. Please note that applicants who hold medical degrees and work as designated medical officers performing tasks such as infection control of health care workers, engaging in national communicable disease surveillance and overseeing routine precautions in a hospital setting, may be better suited to the role of an occupational physician (found in ANZSCO Code Specialist Physicians nec) who are specialists focusing on the prevention, identification, management and treatment of health conditions and rehabilitation.

Environmental Science degrees would not usually be considered positive for this occupation, unless they contained a major stream in human and population health.

## Employment Criteria

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Preparing and implementing plans and strategies for the safe, economic and suitable disposal of commercial, industrial, medical and household wastes
- Advising on and enforcing legislation, implementing prevention programs and strategies for communicable diseases, food safety, waste water treatment and disposal systems, recreation and domestic water quality, contaminated and hazardous substances, and minimising air, sea, water and noise pollution to improve health outcomes
- Developing, implementing and reviewing environmental health management plans
- Identifying hazards, and assessing and controlling risks in the workplace
- Developing, implementing and monitoring programs minimising workplace and environmental pollution involving chemical and physical hazards

Additional tasks may include:

- Develops, implements and reviews environmental health emergency management plans and occupational health and safety plans
- Oversees all health aspects of food hygiene, such as transport, storage, preparation, serving and disposal of food
- Develops and implements programs minimising air, sea, water and noise pollution
- Develops, implements and coordinates environmental health education and health promotion programs
- Oversees and advises on environmental health legislation and recommends corrective actions
- Investigates complaints about food safety and ensures shops, restaurants and food processors follow health regulations
- Monitors and controls water, air and noise pollution and collects water samples for analysis
- Initiates and conducts environmental health impact or risk assessments
- Designs and conducts health education programs or public information campaigns
- Prepares policy documents and guidelines relating to environmental health matters
- Manages programs to control disease-causing pests such as mosquitoes
- Investigates and manages public health incidents such as disease outbreaks
- Manages programs to control public health and environmental issues associated with major public events
- Responds to disasters and emergency situations where public health is at risk
- Assesses building development applications and inspects houses and public buildings to ensure they comply with environmental or health and safety standards
- Inspects and licenses premises that may present infectious disease risks to the community (such as tattoo parlours and acupuncturists, where skin penetration and body piercing occurs), and inspects hairdressing and beauty salons
- Maintain records, prepares statistics, writes reports and gives evidence in court cases where health or environmental regulations have been violated