



**A great career
in health
goes with
the Territory**

Thinking about a career in environmental health?

What is environmental health?

Environmental health is a branch of public health that focuses on the physical, chemical, biological, and social factors that affect people within their surroundings. Establishing and maintaining healthy environments requires collaboration between individuals, communities, government, and non-government agencies.

What does an environmental health officer do?

Environmental health officers (EHO) implement a range of programs to enhance public health infrastructure, promote healthier environments, and improve community health literacy.

The role of an EHO is diverse combining hands-on fieldwork, policy and program implementation, undertaking population health promotion as well as assisting with business compliance.

An EHO focuses on improving environmental health in key areas, including:

- **Food and beauty businesses:** Regulation and compliance of registered food and beauty businesses.
- **Health promotion:** Provide education, especially in relation to hygiene promotion and food safety to reduce disease burden with the community.
- **Housing:** Ensuring housing has health hardware (plumbing/electrical) to assist tenants to live a healthy life.
- **Water supply management:** Ensuring access to safe and suitable drinking water.
- **Wastewater management:** Ensuring wastewater (sewage) is correctly managed and disposed of to prevent public health risk.
- **Emergency management:** Environmental health primarily operates in the recovery phase of emergencies. In the Northern Territory, emergencies frequently involve flooding, cyclones and heat related events
- **Communicable infectious disease control:** With a particular focus on food borne disease.
- **Environmental exposures:** Addressing risks related to asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazards.

How can I become an EHO?

A number of environmental health bachelor degrees are available in Australia. Alternatively, completion of a relevant bachelor's degree may enable entry to a post graduate qualification in environmental health. Available via distance education, completion provides eligibility to be appointed as an EHO.

A career as an EHO provides a balance of office based and external field tasks, working both collaboratively and autonomously to promote public health improvements.

There are many different career pathways for EHOs. These can include careers in health promotion, community development, climate change, engineering, toxicology and many more. EHOs can find careers at local, state/territory and federal government levels, as well as in the private sector.

For available courses check at [Environmental Health Australia \(EHA\)](http://EnvironmentalHealthAustralia(EHA)) or for more information.

Work experience opportunities may be available within course requirements.

For more information on a career in environmental health scan below.



[health.nt.gov.au/
professionals/
environmental-health](http://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/environmental-health)

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