

**Position Description for Public Health Registrar,
National Centre for Farmer Health, Western District Health Service and
School of Medicine, Deakin University**

Position Title	Public Health Registrar	Employer	Western District Health Service (WDHS) on behalf of the Partnership
Time Fraction	To be negotiated in the range of 1.0 FTE	Classification	HM26
Deakin University	A conjoint clinical appointment will be offered	Faculty	Health, School of Medicine
Location	Western District Health Service, Western Victoria	Responsible to	Director National Centre for Farmer Health and the Director of Medical Services, WDHS.

Academic: Current Medical Registration with the Medical Board of Australia and ability to undertake medical practice.

This position is a Public Health Medicine training position, funded through the Specialist Training Program. Applicants should note that an offer to this position is conditional upon current participation or being accepted into the training program of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM).

To note: this position is based in Hamilton, Victoria and the successful incumbent will be required to be resident in the locality for this period of time. Assistance with accommodation will be provided.

A current drivers licence and commitment to undertaking further training in agricultural health and medicine through the Deakin University School of Medicine (Agricultural Health and Medicine HMF701) is required. Additional training via the Deakin University online unit HMF702 Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities will be encouraged; successful completion will earn credit towards obtaining the Deakin University Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Health and Medicine.

An ability to claim MBS items would be an advantage

Introductory Comment

Your role will be to provide medical and public health skills, research and advice in relation to preventive health, communicable diseases and environmental health in farming and rural communities. This position offers an excellent opportunity for those wishing to develop or enhance skills across a broad range of public health issues in farming communities whilst preparing for Fellowship of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine. The appointee will also be invited to teach from time to time in the area of rural health and especially farm family health, wellbeing and safety within the Faculty of Health, Deakin University under the support and guidance of the Director of the National Centre for Farmer Health. The appointee will promote the Centre, WDHS and the faculty of Health and maintain links and partnerships with relevant medical, academic, industry and professional communities. The appointee will make an independent contribution through professional practice and expertise and contribute to the Centre's research, service delivery and teaching program development.

Position Purpose

The Public Health Registrar will be responsible for the identification, development, planning, and research of public health programs pertaining to the National Centre for Farmer Health.

In performing these tasks the Public Health Registrar will be part of a small senior core team including the Director, Lecturer/Researcher in Rural Health, AgriSafe™ Clinicians and the Sustainable Farm Families Program Manager. Activities of the NCFH are undertaken in close cooperation with the medical and health staff at WDHS and academic staff of the Faculty of Health at Deakin University.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. **Project Identification and Management:** Consults, liaises with and influences key stakeholders; produces detailed public health project plans where objectives are clearly defined and action steps for achieving them are clearly specified; monitors performance against objectives and manages project risks and issues; ensures project objectives are met.
2. **Analytical/Conceptual/Information Seeking:** The ability to apply epidemiological and statistical skills as well as a broad knowledge of public health to the identification of patterns or connections between situations, problems or issues; identify the key or underlying elements of complex situations and set priorities on a rational basis.
3. **Interpersonal Skills:** Detects the underlying concerns, interests or emotions that lie behind what is being said and done; presents as genuine and sincere when dealing with others; projects an objective view of another's position; uses understanding of individuals to get the best outcomes for the person and organisation.
4. **Written communication:** Prepares briefings, emails and reports using clear, concise and grammatically correct language; prepares written communications to ensure it contains the information necessary to achieve the purpose and meet audience needs; and ensures appropriate style and formats are used, including standard departmental formats.
5. **Medical Service provision if required,** to provide public health advice and clinical assessment which may be out "in the field" via the NCFH's program of health assessments at suitable agricultural events. Although some management advice would be given, referral to the person's own clinician would be appropriate especially for prescribing pharmaceuticals, requesting investigations or performing procedures.

Personal Qualities:

6. **Drive and Commitment:** be enthusiastic and committed, demonstrate capacity for sustained effort and hard work, set high standards of performance for self and others, enjoy a vigorous and dynamic work environment.
7. **Initiative and Accountability:** pro-active and a self-starter, can seize opportunities and act upon them, takes responsibility for own actions.
8. **Teamwork:** Cooperates and works well with others in the pursuit of team goals, collaborates and shares information, shows consideration, concern and respect for others' feelings and ideas,

accommodates and works well with the different working styles of others, encourages resolution of conflict within group.

9. Flexibility: is adaptable, open to new ideas, accept changed priorities without undue discomfort, recognise the merits of different options and acts accordingly.

Specialist Expertise:

10. An understanding of current public health issues and priorities affecting rural Australia.

Mandatory Qualifications:

- Current Medical Registration with the Medical Board of Australia and ability to undertake medical practice.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Postgraduate qualification in Public Health or currently undertaking same.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Ensure compliance with all legislative requirements and with WDHS and University policies, including equity and equal opportunity, and occupational health and safety

Terms and conditions

The position is for an initial term of one year and in line with the funding and administration agreement of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, Specialist Training Program. The terms and conditions are as prescribed by the Victorian Public Health Sector (AMA) Doctors in training- Multi-enterprise Agreement 2008-2012 Award and Western District Health Service By-Laws.

Location of Work

The primary location of this position is the NCFH which is based at Western District Health Service, Hamilton. It is expected; however, that the Public Health Registrar will on occasions work from other locations, including Deakin University campuses and WDHS sites. The NCFH expects the postholder to reside in the Western District area in order to provide the full range of duties required.

Accountability

The Public Health Registrar will be accountable to the Director of the National Centre of Farmer Health and the Director of Medical Services, WDHS. Supervision and support as required by the specialist training position will be provided.

Background

The National Centre for Farmer Health is a new university research, service delivery and education centre that will provide national leadership to improve the health and wellbeing of farm workers and their families across Australia. The Centre is a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University and is based in Hamilton, Western Victoria.

Distinctive features of Western District Health Service include:

- Comprehensive and high quality rural health services
- Delivery of the Sustainable Farm Families program

- Outreach and rural education programs including a 'Train the trainer' model
- Location in the centre of a major agricultural region

Distinctive features of Deakin University include:

- Delivery of the only postgraduate agricultural health and medicine training and education program in Australia.
- Establishment of Victoria's first rural and regional medical school
- A strong solutions-focused research and development capacity
- A major focus on partnerships in rural and regional Australia

The vision of the National Centre for Farmer Health is:

A thriving Centre inspiring quality education, research and service delivery through innovative partnerships that advance agricultural health locally and globally.

The mission of the National Centre for Farmer Health is to:

Improve the health and wellbeing of farmers, farm employees and their families across Australia through leadership, advocacy, service, research and education

Building on an industry-service-government partnership developed through the Sustainable Farm Families program, the Centre will focus on strengthening the human and rural service workforce to address prevention and early identification of diseases associated with farming and their risk factors, and to develop timely, appropriate and effective interventions. A series of education and training programs will be offered to doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals, veterinarians, agricultural scientists and other professionals working with the farming community to increase their capacity, skills and knowledge in relation to farm-related health issues.

The Centre covers a range of health issues affecting farm workers such as agricultural accidents, depression and suicide, stress and anxiety, respiratory disease, zoonoses, skin complaints, disasters, drug and alcohol abuse, musculoskeletal issues, depression, chemical and pesticide exposures, veterinary therapeutic hazards, medical emergencies and chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular and cancers in farming populations.

For further information about the position contact the Director, National Centre for Farmer Health on 03 5551 8533

October 24, 2012