

# Fact sheet



Queensland Health's population health function works toward achieving a positive and healthy future for all Queenslanders by promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders and preventing disease, illness and injuries.

Population health staff are responsible for implementing population health initiatives and state and local level, undertaking health surveillance and disease control initiatives, and developing and implementing public health legislation.

Queensland Health's population health function is comprised of several different work areas.

## **Communicable Disease Control**

The communicable diseases workforce is responsible for the surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases in Queensland. This includes policy, legislation, disease surveillance, prevention interventions and outbreak control. There is a focus on immunisation, preventing disease spreading from person to person and preventing disease spreading from animals to people.



## **Environmental Health**

The environmental health workforce is responsible for the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental health policy and legislation in Queensland. It provides advice and strategic leadership on existing and emerging environmental health issues. This may include issues such as drugs and poisons, food safety and standards, environmental toxicology and other environmental health risks in disaster situations.



## **Health Promotion**

The health promotion workforce is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating health promotion policies and programs across the state, including at a local level. Key focus areas include physical activity, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, childhood injuries, falls prevention, mental health promotion and skin cancer prevention.



## **Health Surveillance**

The health surveillance workforce describe health and disease patterns in human populations (the distribution), identify the causes of diseases (the determinants) and provide other data to inform intervention strategies to protect the health of Queenslanders.



## **Population Cancer Screening Services**

Queensland Health's population health function coordinates population cancer screening programs for Queenslanders, provides advice and undertakes service planning and performance monitoring for these programs. Programs implemented by Queensland Health population health staff include BreastScreen Queensland, Queensland Cervical Screening Program and the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

## **Public Health Nutrition**

The public health nutrition team work to enhance the nutritional status of all Queenslanders and prevent chronic disease. Key action areas include food supply issues, promoting healthy eating and healthy weight, particularly in relation to meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, mothers, infants and children.



## **Vector Control**

The vector control workforce work to prevent or minimise the risk of vector-borne diseases as well as their pest problems. This is achieved through the design, coordination, implementation and evaluation of a range of population health strategies and interventions. These strategies and interventions aim to control and minimise harm from these vectors, particularly mosquitoes.

Queensland Health's population health staff work on statewide initiatives as well as engaging in community projects at both a local and regional level.

For more information on Queensland Health's population health function, including information about careers, visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/ph](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph)

