

The Public and Population Health Careers Guide

Discover your future in healthcare



2025 Edition

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and leaders, past, present and emerging.

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Editors note

This guide provides general information on career pathways in public health and population health. It has been based on the best available information at the time of publishing, however details may change as the labour market and career options evolve over time.

It is intended as a supplement to professional careers guidance, not a replacement.

About the guide

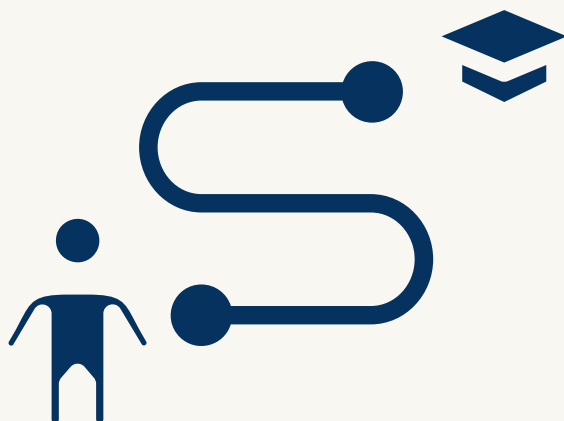
The Public and Population Health Careers Guide is packed with info about all kinds of career opportunities in public and population health - and it's designed especially for high school students (and parents, teachers, and career advisers too)!

You'll read about the different types of jobs you can have in public and population health including:

- The kinds of activities and tasks you'll undertake in the role.
- What personal characteristics might help you succeed.
- What training and study you'll need.
- How in demand you'll be and how much you might earn.
- Where you can find more information.

There also a quiz to help you work out your Public Health Personality!

**Thinking about
a career in
health but not
sure where you
fit?**



Lets' have a look at how
your unique skills can help
pave your career path in
public and population
health!

What *is* public and population health?

Great question!

Public health and population health is a unique type of healthcare that is provided to whole populations, not just one person at a time. Instead of working at the patient's bedside, public and population health professionals look at the big picture.

By understanding the many things that can affect our health, like where and how we live, our cultures, and our environments, public and population health professionals:

- prevent and lower the risk of diseases linked to how we live, like heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.
- keep communities safe from infectious diseases and other health risks in the environment.
- keep the community informed about health risks and how to stay healthy.
- enforce public health and safety legislation and regulations within the community to protect the health of everyone.
- track and monitor data trends to predict and respond to disease outbreaks.
- make it possible for everyone to take steps toward better health.

Public and population health professionals are the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to keep us healthy and out of hospital!

Is it for me?

Public and population health is all about working as a team to keep whole communities healthy—not just treating people once they get sick.

Do any of these sound like you?

- You like the idea of helping people—but not necessarily in a hospital or clinical setting.
- You're into solving big problems and making a difference for lots of people at once.
- You want a career that's varied, interesting, and meaningful.

If you said yes to any of these, public and population health could be your

**PERFECT
MATCH**

Your story. Your choices. Your impact.

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Environmental Health Officer

Work on the front line to manage health risks in the environment. Make sure our air, food, and water are safe!

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Get hands-on helping Environmental Health Officers conduct inspections, collect samples, and investigate.

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Investigate and report the “who, what, where, how, and how much” of diseases as the detectives of the health world.

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Public Health Nurse

Not your typical nurse! Run vaccination clinics, respond to outbreaks, and work with communities to promote health.

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Focus on the big picture behind the scenes to prevent illness and tackle major health threats.

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Not sure which career might be right for you?

Flip the page to level up in your healthcare journey and explore options in public and population health, and don't forget the [career quiz on page 34!](#)

Environmental Health

Environmental health is a big (and very important) part of public health - and it's not your average healthcare job!

Environmental health looks at how things in the environment impact our health, and how diseases and illness related to our environments can be prevented and managed.

It's all about:

- Making sure our **environments are healthy**—from clean air and water to safe food and healthy housing, schools, workplaces and public spaces.
- Tackling big challenges like the **health impacts of climate change**.
- Enforcing **laws and rules** that protect people from things like pollution, unsafe food, vapes or even tattoos!
- Responding to **natural disasters** and **public health emergencies** (yep, even pandemics).

If you care about the planet *and* the people on it, this could be your perfect fit! You could become:

- An environmental health officer.
- An environmental health technician.



Environmental Health Officer

If you're into science and want a practical job that helps keep your whole community healthy, becoming an environmental health officer (EHO) could be your calling.



EHOs work on the front lines of health, making sure the places we live, work and play are safe and healthy. They prevent health problems by checking that things like food, water, housing and waste systems meet health and safety standards. It's a practical role that mixes science, problem-solving, enforcement and community work.

What you'll do

Your day as an EHO is rarely the same. You might:

- Monitor air and water quality at water treatment plants, public swimming pools and local waterways.
- Coordinate responses to natural disasters or disease outbreaks.
- Inspect places like restaurants, markets, or tattoo studios.
- Investigate food safety issues or hygiene complaints.
- Prepare for big events, like music festivals and even the Olympics.
- Check on waste disposal systems or pest problems.
- Provide advice on health regulations and help enforce them.



You'll do a mix of indoor and outdoor work, and you'll definitely be on the move - so if sitting behind a desk all day everyday sounds boring, read on!

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

The most important quality an environmental health officer needs is a passion for making our environments healthier places.

You'll be great in this career if you:

- Are interested in science or health (double points if you're already studying health or science at school!)
- Are practical and hands-on.
- Are a confident communicator.
- Enjoy working outdoors and indoors.
- Are naturally curious.
- Are good solving real-world, practical problems.

"What excites me most about environmental health is that each day is different and the role is constantly evolving. I enjoy working with like-minded people who have the same passion to protect the community from what are often hidden hazards."

Billy-Jay B. | Environmental Health Officer

How to get there

To become an Environmental Health Officer, you'll need to go to uni.

You can start straight after high school by enrolling in a Bachelor of Health Science and majoring in environmental health or another related degree like Public Health where you can major in environmental health (3–4 years full-time).

You can also become an EHO by completing a post-graduate qualification in environmental health (like a postgraduate diploma or masters degree) if you've already got a bachelors degree. This will take an extra 1-2 years.

Tip: Your uni course needs to be accredited by Environmental Health Australia so double check this before you enrol.

Not quite ready for uni?

You can start as an Environmental Health Technician through a vocational education and training (VET) pathway (like TAFE) and work your way up!

Some universities may also offer an undergraduate Diploma of Environmental Health (1 year full-time) to give you an introduction to environmental health practice, but you won't be able to work as a fully-fledged EHO yet.

Job security and future outlook

Good news: EHOs are always in demand—and even more so in rural and remote areas. The world is constantly changing, and new health risks pop up all the time (like vaping, climate change and pandemics). That means EHOs will always play a huge role in keeping us safe.



There's lots of room to grow too—some EHOs go on to specialise in a particular area of environmental health practice or science and some become team leaders, managers and executives. You can even work overseas, including in developing countries.

Want to know more?

You can learn more about environmental health careers and your options on the **Environmental Health Australia** website.



Salary guide

Once you're fully qualified, you could earn anywhere between **\$70,000 to \$150,000+**, depending on where you work and your level of experience. Some places even offer paid training while you study!

Environmental Health Technician

Environmental health technicians support environmental health officers (EHOs) in keeping our environments safe. It's a hands-on job with lots of variety—you might be out in the field collecting samples one day, and helping with inspections the next.

So if you want to get into the workforce sooner and make a real difference in your community, becoming an environmental health technician could be your perfect launchpad!

What you'll do

As the EHO's right-hand legend, you'll be doing the essential groundwork that helps keep our air, water, food, and public spaces healthy, clean and safe.

No two days are the same, but here's a taste of what you might get up to:

- Collect water, soil, food and other samples and help with testing them back in the lab or out in the field.
- Assist with inspections of restaurants, markets, tattoo parlours and more.
- Help monitor and manage risks from mosquitoes and other pests.
- Maintain equipment, making sure it's working and ready to go.
- Write up your findings and help with reports.



You'll spend a lot of time outdoors or moving between locations. So if you can't handle the thought of sitting still at a desk all day, this could be the job for you.

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

You don't need a cape, just a curiosity for science and a love of helping people. You'll smash it as a technician if you:

- Enjoy being active and outdoors.
- Are good at following technical instructions.
- Like working as part of a team.
- Are good at solving practical problems.
- Are reliable and organised.



How to get there

Good news—you don't need to go to uni to get started. Many techs are trained on the job, and some start with a vocational course (like TAFE). Here are some options to explore:

- Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement – learn to collect samples like a pro.
- Certificate III in Laboratory Skills – get the skills to test and analyse samples in a lab or the field.

Some schools even offer these courses as part of Years 10–12, so visit www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au and talk to your VET coordinator or careers adviser to see what's available!

You might also consider a Diploma of Environmental Health (1 year full-time), which can give you a strong intro to the field and might help you work toward becoming an environmental health officer later on.

Tip: Potential employers in your area, like local councils and public health units may be able to provide information about their role requirements and any opportunities for training and employment.

Job security and future outlook

Environmental health is a stable and well-established industry, and techs are becoming more and more in demand—especially in rural and remote areas. Some people stay in this role long-term, while others use it as a stepping stone into environmental health officer or other public health or science careers.

And guess what? If you decide later that you want to level up and become an Environmental Health Officer, you'll already have a head start.



Salary guide

Depending on where you work and your experience, environmental health technicians can earn anywhere from **\$50,000 to \$90,000** a year. Not bad for a job that lets you work in the great outdoors and make a real difference.

Want to know more?

Check out the **Choose Your Own Health Career** website.



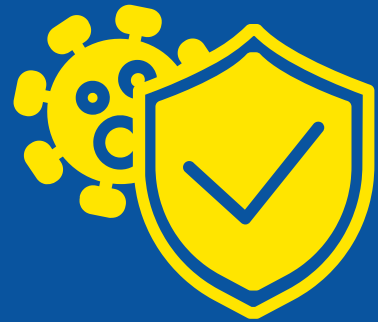
You can also contact potential employers, like local councils and public health units, to find out more.



Other Professional Public and Population Health Roles

In public and population health, you get to do some of the most important work in healthcare – prevention!

Other public and population health professionals undertake a range of essential activities for the health and wellbeing of communities and populations, including health education, tracking data, mosquito monitoring and public health policy management.



Outside of environmental health and public health medical and nursing roles, other population health professions you can build a career in are:

- Epidemiology
- Health promotion
- Medical entomology
- Public health policy.



In public and population health, you might:

- Work with communities to design innovative solutions for strengthening health and well-being and deliver health programs together.
- Make it possible for everyone to take better steps towards health and access healthy options.
- Provide advice to other health practitioners, policy makers and the community on public health issues like infectious diseases, chronic diseases and environmental health risks.



- Work to prevent and lower the risk of diseases linked to how we live, like heart disease, diabetes and cancer.
- Screen for diseases and health conditions to find them early, so people can get the health care and treatment they need.
- Undertake health surveillance and use data to understand health issues and identify causes.
- Respond to disease outbreaks.



The role you want to play in solving some of our biggest health challenges is up to you.

Epidemiologist

Epidemiologists are like the detectives of the public health world!

They study patterns of disease and illness across communities and populations to figure out what's going wrong and how to fix it. From investigating COVID-19 outbreaks to tracking the rise of chronic illnesses like diabetes, they're the people behind the scenes making sense of health data.

If you're into solving mysteries, working with data, and helping protect whole communities from getting sick, this might be the career for you.

What you'll do

On the job, you'll use your health knowledge to:

- Collect and crunch data on health, illness, and outbreaks to uncover trends.
- Design surveys and questionnaires to learn more about people's health and to support managing outbreaks.
- Spot patterns and tell (interesting) stories through statistics.
- Share your findings in clear, easy-to-understand ways (info-graphic anyone?).
- Team up with other public health heroes to plan ways to prevent and manage disease outbreaks (think: COVID, flu, dengue).
- Use data to measure whether health programs and policies are working.
- Translate complex data into information that people can understand and use to make decisions.

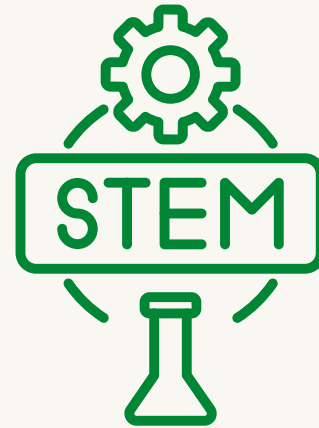


Think of it as a mix of maths, science, health and problem-solving, with a real-world impact on people's lives.

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

You'll love this role if you:

- are a maths whizz and also like science and health, maybe even throw in a bit of coding (and bonus points for economics)!
- enjoy working with numbers and solving puzzles.
- are organised and focused on detail.
- can communicate interesting and sometimes complicated stuff with different types of people.



How to get there

To become an epidemiologist, you'll need to go to uni. It won't be quick, so you'll need to be okay with studying for 4-6 years.



There are many different university programs to start you off on the right path, like biomedical or health science, public health or even medicine, which will take 3–4 years full-time to complete.

When you finish, you'll then need to do a Masters degree in epidemiology, applied epidemiology, biostatistics or public health with a major in epidemiology (1-2 years full-time).

There are many different combinations and study pathways to choose from. As a starting point, you can contact one of the many schools of public or population health in Australia or New Zealand, or look online at what potential universities offer, and then talk to a guidance officer or careers adviser about your plans.

Job security and future outlook

Epidemiology is a well-regarded profession - especially since the world has had a few major health scares lately!

There's lots of room to grow—some epidemiologists choose to get qualifications in health economics to broaden their skillset. Epidemiologists can also go on to become managers and executives. You can even work overseas in global organisations, like the World Health Organisation and United Nations.



"I've found my work as a public health epidemiologist incredibly rewarding. I have loved the opportunity to use the analytical epidemiology skills I developed, in working with other public health teams to prevent illness and protect the health of the community."

Daniel F. | Epidemiologist

Salary guide

Once you're fully qualified, you could earn anywhere between **\$100,000 to \$150,000+**, depending on where you work, your qualifications and your level of experience.



Want to know more?

You can find information on what it's like to work as an epidemiologist, and study pathways on the **Australasian Epidemiological Association** webpage.



END
ROAD
WORK

60

DRIVE SAFELY

Health Promotion Officer

Are you a positive creative thinker with a hunger for making it easier to be healthy? Health promotion officers help individuals and communities increase control over their health and improve it.

They work in all kinds of places - like hospitals, public health units, schools, community organisations, universities, local councils, or even big sporting events.

What you'll do

The role of a health promotion officer can be very varied, but you'll generally work with other health professionals and communities to plan, deliver, and review health programs, campaigns, and policies.

You might:

- Develop health campaigns for schools and communities, for example, to promote flu vaccination.
- Create content to raise awareness of important health issues, for example, the health risks of vaping among young people. You might even design and publish webpages, posters and social media posts.
- Partner with communities to help them solve their health problems, like mental health and well-being in regional and remote areas.
- Plan and run events, workshops or education sessions.
- Monitor whether your programs are making a difference by collecting data.
- Provide advice to other health practitioners and policy makers on health strategies and how to reduce inequity in healthcare.



"Health promotion is such a rewarding career—but the most common question I get is: how do you get in? My tip is to start anywhere in health—volunteer at a nursing home, work as a medical receptionist, anything that gets you talking to people and learning about real health issues. It all helps you get your foot in the door!"

- Abby F. | Health Promotion Officer

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career



This job could be perfect if you:

- Enjoy working with people.
- Are creative and good at coming up with new ideas.
- Great at explaining things in a clear and engaging way.
- Are focused on people's strengths and passionate about helping others.

How to get there

To be a health promotion officer, you'll generally need formal qualifications in health promotion, but there are multiple ways to do this. You could study a Bachelor of Health Promotion, or a Bachelor of Public Health or Health Science with a major in health promotion, straight out of high-school if you meet the entry requirements of the course. This will take around 3-4 years if you study full-time.

Many people also study health promotion after they've completed another health-related degree. If you choose this pathway, it will take an extra 1-2 years of full-time study. Many people working in health promotion have studied and worked in other areas first - like nursing, nutrition, exercise science or communications and marketing - before moving into health promotion after further study.

What they all have in common is a passion for helping people live healthier lives and the skills to create positive change in communities

Not quite ready for uni?

You could look at a VET certificate in Population Health to start your study journey and get an idea of what it might be like working in health promotion.

Visit www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au and talk to your teachers, VET coordinator, guidance officer and career adviser for more information on whether you might be able to start a VET certificate during Year 10, 11 or 12.

Useful Tip: The **International Union of Health Promotion Education** (IUHPE) is a global organisation dedicated to health promotion.

Through the **Australian Health Promotion Association** (AHPA), IUHPE accredits university programs. You can become a registered health promotion professional, but it's not a requirement to work in health promotion.



Job security and future outlook

Health promotion is a popular profession, so there is generally lots of competition for jobs, but the projected future demand for health promotion professionals is rising as governments increase their investment in preventive health programs.

There is also plenty of room to grow - some health promotion officers choose to get qualifications in public health, research or health leadership so they can then go on to become health policy specialists, team leaders, managers and executives.

Salary guide

Depending on your qualifications, experience and where you work, you can expect to earn anywhere between **\$70,000 to \$150,000**.



Want to know more?

The **Australian Health Promotion Association** is the peak body for health promotion professionals in Australia. You can find more information about studying and working in health promotion on their website.





Medical Entomologist

Study bugs for a living! Medical entomologists study insects—like mosquitoes—that spread disease, and help keep people safe by keeping tabs on insects that carry nasties like dengue or Ross River virus.

If you're into insects (especially the ones that shouldn't be biting us), this could be your thing.



What you'll do

A typical day might include:

- Setting traps to monitor insect populations.
- Studying mosquitoes under a microscope, even analysing their DNA.
- Helping to plan responses to mosquito outbreaks (Zika, dengue, Ross River virus, etc.)
- Investigating outbreaks caused by insects.
- Testing new ways to control pests.
- Advising public health teams and councils on how to manage mosquitoes.

Check out:
A day in the life
of a medical
entomologist



Personal skills and traits that may help in this career



This job might be for you if you:

- Love science, especially biology and don't mind insects (in fact, you're fascinated by them).
- Enjoy working outdoors.
- Are focused on the detail.
- Are curious and a great problem-solver.

How to get there

To become a medical entomologist you'll need a university qualification, but there is lots of flexibility in what you can study.

You can start straight after high school by studying a Bachelor of Health Science, Science, Agricultural Science or Applied Science, with a major in medical entomology.

If you have a health science degree, you can also undertake post-graduate study in mosquito biology and control.

As a starting point, you can contact one of the many universities that offer degrees in health science, or look online at what potential universities offer, and then talk to a guidance officer or careers adviser about your plans.

Job security and future outlook

Medical entomology is a small and specialised field in Australia, but with the emergence of new mosquito-borne diseases posing a constant global risk, your skills will be sought after, particularly in subtropical and tropical areas. Medical entomology is often delivered as part of environmental health services in many government agencies.



Medical entomologists can also work overseas in global health organisations, like the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Salary guide

Depending on your qualifications, experience and where you work, you can expect to earn anywhere between **\$70,000 to \$150,000+**.

Want to know more?

The **Australian Entomological Society** website has more information on careers in medical entomology.



Public Health Officer

Love the idea of improving whole communities' health through big changes in policy and population-level preventive programs? This could be the job for you.

Public health officers help plan and run programs and write policies that keep communities healthy by preventing diseases and protect people against illness and injury.

What you'll do

The role of public health officer is one of the most varied in public and population health. Your work could include:

- Working with communities, health practitioners and other experts to tackle big and complex public health challenges, like reducing the number of young people taking up vaping.
- Gathering and using health data and information to investigate population health issues and improve health services.
- Developing policy that promotes health and protects the public from ill health, injury and other harms.
- Plan and deliver preventive programs with communities to improve their health, for example, vaccination programs.

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

You'll love this role if you:

- Are a big picture, blue-sky thinker.
- Enjoy solving difficult problems using evidence.
- Like working with people, data, and ideas.
- Are a strong communicator.
- Keen to make a positive difference and have a big impact.



How to get there

To be a public officer, you'll generally need formal qualifications in public health.

You could study a Bachelor of Public Health, or Health Science with a major in public health, straight out of high school if you meet the entry requirements of the course (3-4 years full-time).

Many people also study public health after they've completed another health-related degree. If you choose this pathway, it will take an extra 1-2 years of full-time study on top of your original degree.



Job security and future outlook



Public health officers and people with skills in public policy are in demand across a range of areas within the government.

There's lots of room to grow—some public health officers have qualifications in political science, health economics, research and health leadership to specialise or broaden their skillset.

Like other public and population health professionals, public health officers can go on to become managers and executives. You can even work overseas in global organisations, like the World Health Organisation and United Nations.

Salary guide

Depending on your qualifications, experience and where you work, you can expect to earn anywhere between **\$70,000 to \$150,000+**.

Want to know more?

The main organisation for public health in Australia is the **Public Health Association of Australia**.

You can find more information on what it's like to work in public health and the kinds of policies and programs you might be involved in on their website.



Medicine and Nursing in Public Health

Working in health care is more than just the operating room and treating the sick in hospitals and clinics.

There are also doctors and nurses that are trained in public health. Public health physicians and public health nurses are clinical experts in providing:

- Disease outbreak management and infection control.
- Advice and provision of immunisations for infants, the elderly, immuno-compromised, the general public, migrants and refugees.
- Home and outreach visits to educate on healthy and safe habits, especially in vulnerable communities.



Public Health Nurse

Already thinking you'd like to be a nurse? If you are reading this then chances are public health nursing is a dream career for you.

Nurses working in public health focus on preventing illness and promoting health to help communities stay healthy, taking action before people get sick.

As a public health nurse, you might:

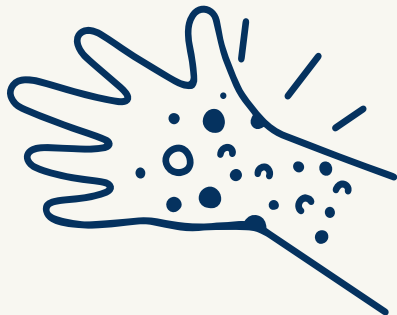
- Run immunisation clinics or pop-up vaccine hubs.
- Work with First Nations communities on health programs.
- Support families to manage their health.



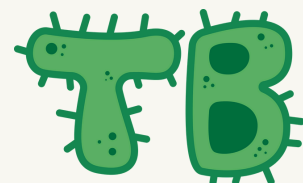
What you'll do

Depending on where you work, you might:

- Monitor vaccination trends in the community and help design campaigns to increase vaccination rates.
- Design and implement programs to prevent communicable diseases, like sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases that can be prevented by being vaccinated.



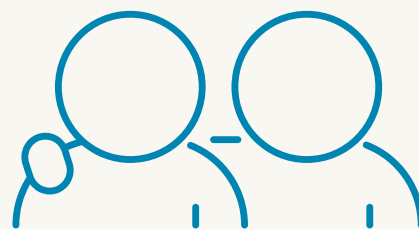
- Investigate and respond to disease outbreaks (like flu or COVID).
- Prepare for and respond to public health incidents and emergencies with the public health team.
- Deliver education sessions to individuals and communities about hygiene and other healthy practices to prevent communicable diseases.
- Provide advice to other health practitioners on public health practice and approaches.



Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

You'll be great at this job if you:

- Want to be a nurse and make a difference at the population level.
- Are friendly, caring and want to help people live better, healthier lives.
- Enjoy talking to people and teaching them new things.
- Are calm under pressure and can work in stressful situations from time to time.



How to get there

Public health nurses are registered nurses (RNs). This means they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

To become an RN, you need to study a university qualification in nursing that will enable you to become registered. You can find the list of 'approved programs of study' on the Nursing and Midwifery Board's AHPRA webpage.

Specialist post-graduate qualifications in public health will help you to develop in this role.

It's generally not possible to work as a public health nurse as your first job after graduation and registration - you'll need to gain experience in nursing practice.

Tip: You'll still need to be willing to train and work in a hospital before you can move into public health nursing.

Not quite ready for uni?

Visit www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au and talk to your teachers, VET coordinator, guidance officer/ career adviser for more information about VET qualifications in nursing.

You could train to become an assistant in nursing or an enrolled nurse (EN) to start your career journey. This can give you a head start if you decide to study nursing at university, and it will allow you to work in nursing while you go to uni.



Job security and future outlook

Registered nurses are always in demand and the future employment outlook in Australia and internationally is very strong. However, roles in public health nursing are limited and usually highly sought after and competitive.

Salary guide

Registered nurses can earn between **\$80,000 to \$150,000**.

With experience and public health qualifications, nurses in public health can earn between **\$110,000 to \$150,000+**, depending on the role and location.



Want to know more?

You can find out more information nursing careers on the **Queensland Health Careers** webpage.



Public Health Physician

Want to become a doctor and have a really big impact? Public health physicians are specialist medical doctors that use their clinical medical experience to look after the health of whole communities, not just individuals. They help prevent disease and protect against health hazards.



What you'll do

Your job might include:

- Responding to disease outbreaks or natural disasters.
- Designing programs to reduce illness across a region.
- Advising governments on big health issues.
- Supporting access to healthcare for everyone.
- Conducting research to better understand what makes communities sick and find long-term solutions.
- Providing advice to other health practitioners on public health practice and approaches.

Personal skills and traits that may help in this career

You'll thrive as a public health physician if you:

- Want to be a doctor that is focused on the bigger picture.
- A strong leader and strategic thinker.
- A great problem solver.
- Are curious and love learning.
- Are calm in emergencies and can manage stressful situations.

Remember: You'll need to be willing to train and work in a hospital setting before you can specialise in public health medicine.

How to get there

Public health physicians are registered as specialist medical practitioners with the Australian Medical Board through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

To become a public health physician, you'll need to really love studying!

You'll need to do a medical degree and work in a hospital for several years before you can start your specialist training to become a public health physician (and complete a Masters of Public Health). All up, it might take you 13 years or more before you are fully qualified as a public health physician.

Tip: You won't have to make a decision about what you want to specialise in as a doctor straight away. But, you should speak to a careers/guidance adviser to make sure you know what the entry requirements to study medicine at university are, so you can be prepared.

Job security and future outlook

There is strong demand for doctors in Australia, however different specialties may go through periods of being in higher demand than others, depending on the number of university and specialty training places available.

Competition to get into your chosen specialty program, like public health medicine, can be fierce.

Salary guide

Fully qualified public health physicians can earn **\$180,000 to \$300,000+** depending on experience and employer.

Want to know more?

For more information on becoming a doctor and public health medicine, visit:



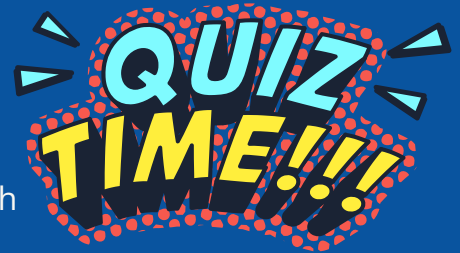
**Queensland
Health Medi-Nav**

**The Australian
Medical
Association**



Career Quiz - what's your **public health personality**?

Want to help people but don't know where to start?
Interested in healthcare but maybe not hospitals? Love
science, but also into solving real-world problems?



This quiz is here to help you figure out which public health career could be your perfect match.

Answer each question and keep track of your responses (A, B, C, etc.). At the end, tally up your most common letter to see your result!

1. What is your problem-solving style?

- A.** The data detective: You like to dive into data to figure out the facts.
- B.** The caring creative: You're focused on finding the best answer for everyone using creative thinking and making sure nobody gets left behind in the solution.
- C.** The practical doer: You jump right in and get your hands dirty.
- D.** The considered collaborator: You approach problems by taking a step back to look at the bigger picture, then bring in your team of experts to shape the best solution.
- E.** The critical intuitive: Logic rules the day, but there is some educated guesswork in there too.
- F.** The wait and watcher: You like to observe and ask questions to investigate 'the why', 'the how' and 'the what happens next'.
- G.** The confident code cracker: You like to take charge of the situation, forming theories and asking questions until you solve the mystery.



2. What's your dream workday?

- A. Studying health trends and solving public health mysteries.
- B. Designing a public campaign to tackle a tricky health problem.
- C. Working on the front-line, collecting samples, inspecting food suppliers and enforcing the rules.
- D. Researching the latest evidence and designing health policies.
- E. Running a pop-up vaccination clinic and educating on the importance of immunisation.
- F. Checking mosquito traps in the field before getting all science-y with samples under the scope.
- G. Giving advice to executives and preparing for the next public health emergency.



3. What are you most interested in?

- A. Statistics, patterns and what makes people sick.
- B. Social justice and helping people live healthier lives.
- C. Environmental safety and hands-on health work.
- D. Writing plans and programs to fix things in society that make us unwell.
- E. Nursing and healthcare, in the community rather than in a hospital.
- F. Insects, pests and stopping them from spreading disease.
- G. Medicine and being a doctor, but helping whole communities stay well and out of hospital.

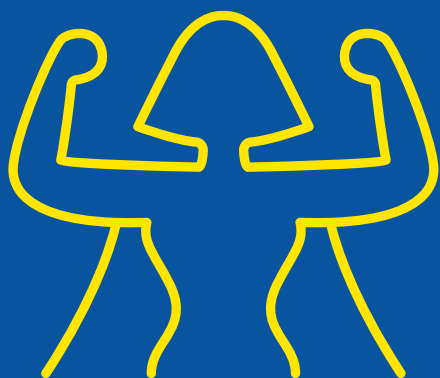
4. Where would you rather work?

- A. Behind the scenes working with data or in a team of researchers.
- B. Out in the community, supporting people to take control of their health.
- C. In the field undertaking investigations, then at the office writing up your findings.
- D. In a government office, doing lots of reading and making important policies.
- E. In a public health unit or government health department, as long as you get to work with like-minded people.
- F. A mix of in the field checking insect activity and and at the office.
- G. In a public health unit or health department, maybe even as the team leader.



5. Which statement below best describes you?

- A. Not only are you good at maths but you like it too.
- B. You focus on people's strengths and want to change the world.
- C. You are very down to earth and have lots of interests, but not necessarily the same as other people you know.
- D. You're a blue-sky thinker with big ideas and not afraid of challenges.
- E. People turn to you when they need advice, and you are really good at giving it.
- F. You're a bit of a science fanatic – biology is one of your favourite subjects.
- G. People often describe you as a natural-born leader.



6. What's your superpower combination?

- A. Analytical thinking and attention to detail.
- B. Creativity and strong communication.
- C. Practical problem-solving and teamwork.
- D. Big ideas and strategy.
- E. Empathy and great people skills.
- F. Curiosity and a love for science.
- G. Brainy, good in a crisis, and you never give up.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

- A. Working on research projects as part of a PhD.
- B. Designing big public health education and information campaigns.
- C. Still coming down from the high of your critical role planning for a safe and healthy Olympics.
- D. Influencing important government policy decisions.
- E. Managing strategic programs to prevent HIV and other infectious diseases.
- F. Talking with your global colleagues to manage the next exotic mosquito-borne virus.
- G. Working and training as a junior doctor - happy to be following your dream!



How did you go?



Mostly A's: You're an Epidemiologist!

You love solving puzzles, working with data, and making sense of complex problems. You're the health detective who helps stop diseases before they spread.



Mostly B's: You're a Health Promotion Officer!

You're a creative thinker who loves connecting with people and inspiring positive change. You'll shine creating campaigns and programs that help people stay healthy.



Mostly C's: You're an Environmental Health Officer!

You're practical, hands-on, and love working outside the box (and inside the lab!). You'll be right at home collecting samples and keeping environments safe.

Not keen on going to uni (at least not right away)? You can start your career as an environmental health technician.



Mostly D's: You're a Public Health Officer!

You're a big-picture thinker who loves a challenge. You're great at working with others to make a big difference.



Mostly E's: You're a Public Health Nurse!

You're caring, calm and community-minded. You want to prevent illness and keep people healthy—without being stuck in a hospital.



Mostly F's: You're a Medical Entomologist!

You're a science enthusiast with a special interest in creepy crawlies. You'll help communities stay safe from diseases and outbreaks.



Mostly G's: You're a public health physician

You're a brainy all-rounder that loves to hit the study books. You'll be respected among your peers and able to influence important health policies and government decision.

Got a bit of everything? You have options!

If you got a mix of results, that's totally okay! Public health has loads of overlapping roles and you might be suited to more than just one.

Use the quiz results to explore your interests and chat with a teacher or careers adviser to learn more.

Your next chapter: Public and population health

Story unlocked: a career in public and population health awaits!

Even if you don't know how you want your career story to unfold yet, you can take steps towards a career in healthcare now.

Tips to **LEVEL UP**

Tip: Start thinking about which fields and professions interest you and do some research.

You can find more information on public and population health careers through tools and webpages like:



myfuture



Choose Your
Own Health
Career

Queensland
Health Careers



Your Career



In grade 9 or 10?

You'll need to think about whether you'd like to start your career at uni or TAFE.

If you think university is the way to go, you can research the entry requirements on uni webpages and talk to your teachers or careers adviser about which subjects you might need to take in years 11 and 12 to set you up for success.

If you think TAFE is the right place to start for you, visit www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au and talk to your VET coordinator, guidance officer/career adviser or your teachers for more information on what's available at your school - You might be able to start a VET certificate during Year 10, 11 or 12.

In grade 11 or 12?

If you are planning to go to university, it's time to start researching which courses and universities you are interested in (if you haven't already).

As well as the entry requirements for courses, you'll need to think about how far you are willing to travel to study (across the suburb, across the city or across the country!).

Tip: You could also look at whether you might be eligible for any scholarships and how you might financially support yourself to study, especially if you have to move out of home.

Tip: Before you make any choices about which courses to apply for in grade 12, make sure you talk to a teacher, guidance officer or careers adviser who can help you with getting your course preferences right for your situation.



Tip: If you still aren't sure what you'd like to do, or you are worried you've chosen the wrong subjects or won't get the entry score you need, don't panic! You can usually study anything you missed, including maths, biology and chemistry subjects at uni or TAFE if you find out you need them.

Quest accepted?



One final thing...

The great thing about qualifications in public health is that they are flexible, and a great jumping off point for any career in health care.

Your health career journey starts now.

