

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title: Health Protection Officer

Job description

Health protection officers identify and manage potential health risks to the public. The three main areas health protection officers are involved in are: communicable diseases, environmental health and food safety.

Qualifications required

- To be a designated Health Protection Officer in a [public health unit](#), you need academic, practical and personal abilities that have been identified by the Director-General of Health.
- Skills and knowledge can be achieved by completing a Bachelor of Applied Science (health protection major) from Auckland University of Technology, or a Bachelor of Applied Science (environmental health major) from Massey University.
- However if you already have a Bachelor of Science you could complete the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health (Massey University) or other public health qualifications.

Career path

Health protection officers are part of public health teams in the district health board. Many take on a specialist role such as biosecurity, drinking water, or smokefree environments, while retaining some general tasks. Other roles, related to HPOs, include technical officers in public health units and environmental health officers in territorial local authorities. In the future, a wider range of organisations may seek the sort of skills which health protection officers bring to public health and the professional scope of this work may grow.

Salary range

Health protection officers with some experience at councils earn an average of \$60,000, going up to about \$70,000 with increasing experience.

Other careers this profession could lead to

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How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

Useful school subjects: English, maths, chemistry, biology and science.

Other places to source information about this job

www.healthcareers.org.nz

www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz

