



## Opportunities in Food Safety, Food Standards, and Regulation

SA Health, PIRSA and Dairysafe are partners in South Australia's world-class food regulation system and each has legislative responsibility for food standards and regulation. Our agencies are also part of the South Australian public sector which is one of the most diverse workforces in the state.

Ours are unique workplaces that are dedicated to protecting public health and the reputation of South Australia's food safety and food production.

We employ qualified individuals in roles that cover policy development, verification and audit, investigation, industry support, compliance, and emergency response.

When a vacancy occurs, it presents an exciting opportunity to work within one of these progressive agencies and experience a diverse and rewarding role in food standards and regulation.

### The opportunity

If you have a strong interest in food safety, want to make a difference in a dynamic environment with flexible and secure career options, you should consider career opportunities with us.

Each of our agencies has flexible employment conditions, a strong workplace culture, great career opportunities and a commitment to recognise the contribution of every employee.

The respective regulatory teams are relatively small, so you can benefit from being part of a friendly, supportive, and dedicated team, whilst also establishing a diverse network covering agencies here and interstate, government, and industry stakeholders.

Being part of a small team means you can be rewarded by participating in a range of development, educational, regulatory, compliance and enforcement experiences.

It is an exciting time to be working in food regulation whilst it is experiencing a period of modernisation, with developments in food safety culture, RegTech, and the approach to verification.

### Our Agencies

#### SA Health

SA Health recognises that a safe food supply is a major contributing factor to the health of South Australians. The Food Safety and Regulation Branch work together with other state and national government agencies, and local councils to ensure:

- that food for sale in SA is safe and suitable; and
- consistency and integration of the bi-national food regulation system with New Zealand

The Food Safety and Regulation Branch undertakes work to protect the community from preventable health risks associated with the consumption of unsafe food by administering the Food Act 2001 and associated regulations and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

The Food Safety and Regulation Branch:

- monitors and enforces compliance with the Food Act 2001 (SA), the Food Regulations 2017 (SA) and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- engages in food surveys and sampling to inform national and state policies.
- supports, advises and works with local government on consistency and workforce development

- develops and implements national and state food policy and law
- educates regulators, food businesses, consumers, students and other interested parties about food safety, labelling and food standards
- investigates food poisoning and other food safety incidents and taking corrective action (such as food recalls) to protect the safety of the food supply
- coordinates the South Australian government's position regarding the regulation of genetically modified organisms and genetically modified food
- approves and verifies food safety auditors
- conducts food safety audits of public hospitals, not for profit delivered meals organisations and other government agencies

## Department of Primary Industries and Regions

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency in the government of South Australia. We aim to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and the liveability of regional communities.

We make a difference so South Australia thrives by advancing the prosperity of our primary industries, their communities and regions.

The Food Safety program improves food safety in primary industries and aims to:

- lower cases of food borne illness
- create confidence in food industries
- make sure food production and processing businesses comply with standards and regulations
- apply risk mitigation strategies
- link food production industry to government departments.

## Dairysafe

Dairysafe is an independent statutory authority established under regulation 7 of the *Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) (Dairy) Regulations 2017*.

Dairysafe is the accreditation body for the dairy industry food safety scheme in South Australia and is funded by industry accreditation fees.

Dairysafe's role is to safeguard public health by maintaining a robust regulatory framework that also underpins market access and growth of South Australia's dairy industry. This ensures that Australian food safety standards (the Food Standards Code) are complied with at each point in the supply chain and producers and processors have the capacity and capability to produce safe dairy products. Dairysafe accredits dairy farmers, raw milk transporters and dairy processors and audits accredited businesses for compliance with the Food Standards Code. Dairysafe also assists businesses along the supply chain to resolve issues that can impact the integrity of dairy products. The objective is to apply an appropriate accreditation and compliance verification framework whilst not stifling innovation.

## The benefits

1. **Work/life balance** – Each organisation provides a contemporary workplace that offers a range of benefits to attract and retain great staff. We know maintaining a positive work/life balance is important to positive outcomes. In this environment you have access to a range of flexible work options - including part time work, job-share arrangements, and purchased leave that help

them balance work with their life interests and responsibilities. Each of the workplaces is structured to provide you with an engaging and productive environment which contributes to employee motivation and job satisfaction.

2. **The opportunity to make a difference** – Working in our agencies is more than just a job. We serve our community and partner with industry and businesses, to build the future of our great state. We are part of a network of capable and forward thinking people who care about and respond to the changing needs of our community and industries. In this environment you can learn from some of the state's best and brightest and participate in local and national teams. Whether the objective is shaping policy, contributing to healthy outcomes, contributing to industry growth or handling enquiries, we all share the common goal of making South Australia a great place to live now and into the future.
3. **Pursue new and interesting experiences** – Our organisations are part of the largest employer in South Australia and have connections with similar employers in all other jurisdictions. Together with the nature of our work, this provides you with a dynamic environment with variety and opportunity. You will be equipped with core and high level skills that are transferable to other roles within an agency or the private sector according to your interests, ambitions and capabilities.
4. **Learning and growing** – Our organisations offer and provide opportunities for career flexibility and development. We recognise that continuous learning and development is a key part of enjoying what you do and progressing your career. Regular discussions to review work progress, capabilities, ambitions and development opportunities are actively encouraged. This provides you with the opportunity for professional development and to get you where you want to go with a plan to achieve your goals.
5. **Technology and science** – Food technology, RegTech and AgTech are all fast-moving and increasingly important aspects of food production, supply and regulation. Whether it be artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain, sensors, or advanced data analytics, there are opportunities to use, promote, participate or understand the changes in technology and science.
6. **Employment conditions** – Employees are offered challenging and rewarding work with opportunities for career progression, learning and development, flexibility combined with good salary levels. The South Australian public sector promotes diversity and flexible ways of working including part-time.

## Challenges

The role of a regulator, auditor or food standards professional requires you to be proficient in understanding and applying statutory requirements, standards and protocols in a flexible but consistent manner. Administration of flexible outcome and performance-based regulation requires highly skilled staff who can evaluate a range of alternative methods used by businesses to satisfy regulatory requirements.

One of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of the role is to link positive public health outcomes with a positive business experience.

## Rewards

Working within our agencies provides exposure to areas of public health, primary industries, product development, manufacturing, food science, policy and regulation. Careers that start in food regulation may often diverge as influences from the workplace and opportunities arise. This can lead to added challenges and responsibilities, usually accompanied by greater recognition and remuneration. There are opportunities to progress within agencies and government, and to build relationships within industries and peak industry bodies.

Opportunities to participate in local and national projects can provide broad networks and experiences that will deliver knowledge and personal growth.

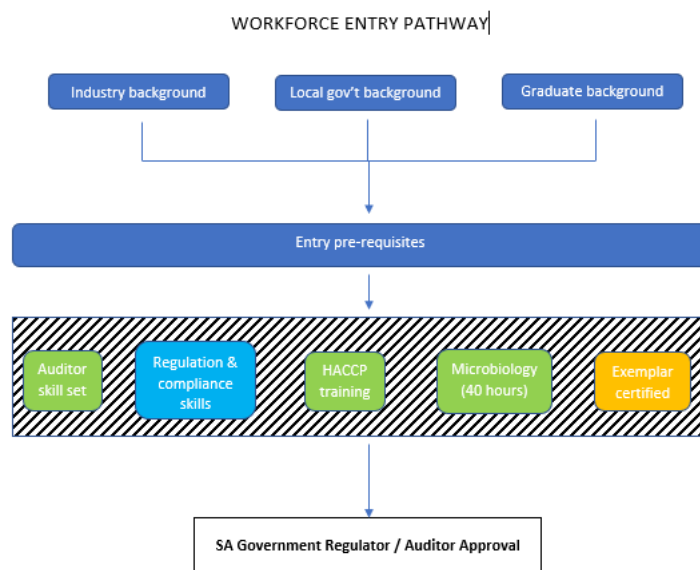
The outcomes you produce can contribute to the broader government focus on positive public health outcomes, industry development and growth.

And you will gain experience when challenged by complex issues that require a solution that links a positive public health outcome with a positive business experience.

## How to best prepare

There are pre-requisites if you are looking to work in food standards and regulation. Make sure you have obtained or are obtaining the required entry pre-requisites, ie the necessary qualifications, experience, skill sets, and competencies illustrated below.

Have a talk to a contact in SA Health, PIRSA or Dairysafe if you need further information.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4a7ebb; margin-right: 5px;"></span> <b>Entry pre-requisites</b> – Government Code of Ethics; auditor code of conduct; fit &amp; proper person; confidentiality agreement</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90c040; margin-right: 5px;"></span> <b>Training</b> – Lead Auditor / HACCP / Sector specific - bivalves; cook/chill; heat treatment; RTE meats / 40 hrs micro / regulation &amp; compliance / industry experience</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00a0e3; margin-right: 5px;"></span> <b>Support</b> – Shadowing / Mentoring / Internship / Graduate</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ffcc00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> <b>Certification</b> – Tertiary qualification (food science or equivalent) / competency &amp; experience / 40 hrs micro / skills examination</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Government support</b></li> <li><b>Government support – grant/subsidy</b></li> <li><b>Government support - placement</b></li> <li><b>Individual's responsibility</b></li> </ul> |
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## How to position yourself for an opportunity

- Make a connection within our agencies – find out more about how you can prepare.
- Stay in touch.
- Participate in placement or mentoring opportunities.
- Nominate to participate in training opportunities.
- Have your name and details included in our potential candidates list.

## Contacts

SA Health – 8226 7136, [healthfoodaudit@sa.gov.au](mailto:healthfoodaudit@sa.gov.au), [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

PIRSA – 8429 4393, [pirsa.foodsafety@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.foodsafety@sa.gov.au), [pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)

Dairysafe – 8223 2277, [admin@dairy-safe.com.au](mailto:admin@dairy-safe.com.au), [www.dairy-safe.com.au](http://www.dairy-safe.com.au)