# Position Description

## Diagnostic Technician – CSOF3

The following information is for applicants

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| Advertised Job Title**:** | Diagnostic Technician |
| Job Reference: | 58894 |
| Relocation Assistance**:** | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required. |
| Applications Are Open To: | Australian Citizens Only  Australian/New Zealand Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents Only   * All Candidates |
| Percentage of Client Focus - Internal: | 50% |
| Percentage of Client Focus - External: | 50% |
| Reports to the: | Team Leader – Virology |
| Number of Direct Reports: | 0 |
| Name and Contact Details For Applicant Enquiries | Jeff Butler 03 5227 5000, Email: Jeff.Butler@csiro.au |
| Contact Details For Applying | Call 1300 984 220 or email [careers.online@csiro.au](mailto:careers.online@csiro.au). |
| How to Apply: | Please apply online at [jobs.csiro.au](https://jobs.csiro.au/) and enter the requisition number**.** Internal applicants please apply via ‘Jobs Central’ through the ‘People Hub’ icon |

## Role Overview:

The Diagnosis, Surveillance and Response Program at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) provides diagnostic and research capability required to investigate and respond to newly emerging diseases affecting livestock and other animals. Sitting within the Diagnosis, Surveillance and Response group, the role will encompass several aspects of diagnostic virology, with a primary focus on performing classical virology-based diagnostic assays involving virus isolation or antigen detection. The successful candidate may also be required to provide additional assistance to the other diagnostic laboratories, as required. This will enable the successful appointee to become multi-skilled in a range of scientific specialties, and be well equipped to respond to urgent changes in diagnostic requirements during disease outbreaks.

The successful candidate will work in microbiologically secure laboratories and contribute to the delivery of outputs across a range of quality assured laboratory diagnostic services. This will primarily involve performing routine diagnostic testing and other associated laboratory housekeeping activities.

The appointee must be able to meet AAHL’s microbiological security and security assessment requirements.

## Duties and Key Result Areas:

* Work within PC3 laboratories to perform diagnostic virology testing under NATA/ISO 17025 accreditation for routine and emergency disease investigation, for commercial clients, and for Reference Laboratory activities.
* Provide general laboratory support for house-keeping and maintenance activities.
* Produce diagnostic reagents for in-house use and provision to external clients.
* Contribute to QA requirements, including reporting and authorizing tests, maintaining up-to-date and accurate test records, annual updates of Standard Operating Procedures and proficiency testing.
* Assist the team leader and veterinary investigation team by providing oral and written advice upon request.
* Contribute to the effective functioning of the Diagnostic Virology Team and other diagnostic teams in the Diagnosis, Surveillance and Response Group to meet Annual Performance Goals and other objectives as advised by line management.
* Undertake and complete tasks under technical direction, working with discretion to decide on the timing of operations within the work team’s plan and planning ahead to meet experiment and/or project demands.
* Under technical direction undertake experiments, laboratory analyses or technology development activities (some non-routine) using a range of techniques, often working on a number of parallel and competing tasks.
* Oversee the activities of less experienced staff and provide guidance on experimental/ technological techniques and protocols.
* Communicate openly, effectively and respectfully with all staff, clients and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of CSIRO’s reputation.
* Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment plans and policies, Diversity initiatives and Zero Harm goals.
* Other duties as directed.

## Competencies:

1. **Teamwork and Collaboration: Proactively seeks and considers the ideas and opinions of others from within and outside the team to help form decisions, plans or actions.**
2. **Influence and Communication: Puts forward ideas by presenting factual information supported by data, definitions, examples, illustrations or other aids, which will assist in conveying meaning.**
3. **Resource Management/Leadership: Provides instruction and assists other staff to complete allocated tasks and activities.**
4. **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Identifies and considers the implications of a range of available alternatives in order to select the most appropriate response to problems of a familiar or recurring nature.
5. **Independence: Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).**
6. **Adaptability:** Willingness to change ideas or perceptions based on new information, contrary evidence or other people's points of view. Prepared to try out different approaches.

## Selection Criteria:

*Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all selection criteria can be appointed.*

1. Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree or equivalent relevant experience in Biological Sciences or a related discipline.
2. Experience conducting and coordinating laboratory-based viral diagnostic tests.
3. Demonstrated ability to plan and schedule laboratory work flow and address underlying issues of complex and ill-defined problems in a timely and technically sound manner.
4. Demonstrated ability to work both independently and co-operatively as a member of a larger project team and to form and maintain effective and respectful relationships with a range of colleagues and collaborators.
5. High level interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills including the ability to document results and communicate effectively with colleagues and clients in order to meet project goals and timelines.

## Desirable Criteria:

1. Experience in egg or cell culture techniques for virus isolation/subculture, and serological testing.
2. Experience with LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System).
3. Up-to-date knowledge of transboundary animal diseases.

## Special Requirements:

To be eligible for this position you must be willing and able to:

* Adhere to CSIRO AAHL microbiological security requirements, other Australian Security requirements applicable to the position and HSE policies.
* Be vaccinated against influenza, rabies, hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis or other agents as specified.

**Security Assessment and Microbiological Security Requirements for Personnel Working on the AAHL Site**

The nature of our work requires that each person working on site must comply with the conditions described below.

* The appointee is required to pass a security clearance at a level appropriate to duties of the position. Confirmation of the appointment is subject to obtaining that clearance.
* It is essential that all work on exotic or emerging diseases carried out at AAHL is conducted in a safe manner to prevent the escape of the disease agents used, and to this end, all activities and personnel will be subject to appropriate microbiological security measures. Consequently, while working at AAHL, you may not reside on a property on which are kept any of the following animals: sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, horses, asses and mules, any other cloven-hoofed animal, fowls, turkeys, geese, domestic ducks, caged birds, emus or ostriches. Personnel working with diseases of aquatic animals may not keep aquarium fish at their place of residence and personnel working with cane toad material must avoid contact with amphibians.
* In addition, for a period of seven days after working in the microbiologically secure area of AAHL, personnel may not have close contact with any of the above animals, amphibians or birds or the actual places where these animals are held, or visit any aquatic animal farm or aquatic animal hatchery.
* Working in the barrier maintained Small Animal Facility requires avoidance of additional animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and poultry 3 days prior to arrival.
* Personnel must abide by Occupational Health, Safety and Environment regulations. Safety signs and directives issued by CSIRO personnel must be complied with at all times.

## About CSIRO:

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Find out more about the CSIRO [Australian Animal Health Laboratory](https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/Facilities/AAHL)