Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program

Support provided to the trainees includes:

• Study Leave
• Tutoring
• Mentoring
• Information session for trainees’ family and support people
• Face to face skill share and peer support meetings

Who can apply?

Aboriginal people who:

• have an interest and passion to protect health and prevent disease by improving the environments where people live, work and play
• are school leavers with the ATAR required for entry into the university course
• are non-school leavers with TAFE Certificate III or similar.

Applicants who do not meet university entry requirements may still be eligible. They are employed initially for up to six months while completing a university preparation course with TAFE or similar, after which time they may be offered a full time traineeship.

How to find out about available positions?

• There are around 2-3 traineeships offered each year and the location of these depends on the participating council or PHU
• Advertisements are placed on NSW Health and Local Government recruitment websites and in local and Indigenous newspapers
• Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other Aboriginal agencies are notified by email
• Register your interest with the Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit by emailing your contact details to aehu@doh.health.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 9391 9790 and you will be notified when traineeships are advertised

The Training Program is managed and administered by NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit (AEHU).

For more information please contact AEHU:
Ph: 02 9391 9790
Email: aehu@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
Visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au

An opportunity for Aboriginal people in NSW to become qualified Environmental Health Officers

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Artist: Peter Waples-Crowe
“A healthy community begins with a healthy living environment”
An opportunity for Aboriginal people in NSW to become qualified Environmental Health Officers

The NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program (Training Program) was launched in 1997 to develop an Aboriginal workforce with the leadership and technical skills to progress environmental health issues.

The Training Program provides employment and training, university education and support for the trainee over a six year period.

Employment and Training

Trainees are employed full-time by a Public / Population Health Unit (PHU) or Local Government (council) as an Aboriginal Trainee Environmental Health Officer.

A qualified, experienced and designated Environmental Health Officer supervises and guides the workplace training and professional development of the trainee.

Trainees are paid a base annual salary between $34,000 to $53,000 depending on workplace and year of the traineeship.

Environmental health areas that the trainees may be involved with include:
- Inspect and take samples from public swimming pools, drinking water supplies and cooling towers
- Inspect food shops, tattooists, beauty therapists, brothels, mortuaries and septic tanks
- Work with Aboriginal communities to improve environmental health conditions such as problems with housing, rubbish and drinking water
- Respond to complaints about sewerage spills, offensive odours, noise and contaminated land
- Inspect hotels and cafes to check compliance with non-smoking laws
- Provide a range of health information to the public
- Provide support during emergencies such as floods, storms, bushfires and disease outbreaks
- Set up mosquito traps and provide information to the public about protection against mosquitoes that may cause disease

Education

Trainees undertake a Bachelor of Natural Science (Environment and Health) course part-time by distance learning at the Western Sydney University (or other approved course at different universities).

The Training Program funds travel to university and core expenses such as course fees for successfully completed subjects, required text books, technical equipment and graduation costs.