



Sue, On-plant Veterinary Officer
Export Meat Abattoir

Valeska, Veterinary Officer
Australia–Indonesia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Animal Health Program

Protecting food safety and export markets

‘I work as an on-plant vet at an export abattoir. The role involves performing ante-mortem inspection of animals, verifying post-mortem inspection procedures, overseeing animal welfare and checking that all company activities comply with the relevant legislation. ‘On-plant vets enable certification of Australian meat and meat products for overseas markets. Although the work environment at an export abattoir can be challenging,

I enjoy it because it’s a busy and stimulating workplace. ‘Always keep the Department of Agriculture in mind as a career possibility. I live on a 20 acre hobby farm and have chickens, ducks, sheep, two vizsla dogs and a cat. The Department of Agriculture’s pay rates, regular work hours and a variety of career opportunities in country locations make it worthwhile.’

Keeping emerging infectious diseases offshore

‘I’m a veterinary officer with Department of Agriculture’s Biosecurity Animal Division and am currently working on the Australia–Indonesia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Animal Health Program. Through the program we can really assist Indonesia to combat diseases such as avian influenza and strengthen our bilateral relationships. ‘I decided to work for the Department of Agriculture because I wanted to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of government veterinarians.

We did not get much information during university and I had a vague notion that it was all about abattoir inspections. The Department of Agriculture graduate program seemed a good starting point to dispel myths and ignorance. ‘Always have a go at something different. Change, while challenging and uncertain, will always broaden your mind.’

The ‘Biosphere’ Graphic Element

The biosphere is a key part of the department’s visual identity. Individual biospheres are used to visually describe the diverse nature of the work we do as a department, in Australia and internationally.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Consider a career as an Australian Government Veterinarian



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of animal health
experts



The Department of Agriculture
is Australia's largest employer
of veterinarians.

If you are interested in an exciting, challenging and rewarding career, we encourage you to consider the opportunities that Department of Agriculture can offer.

As Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer, I am supported by an expert team of veterinarians, scientists and policy makers.

My team's activities are critical to Australia's biosecurity system by protecting the health of our animals, people and environment from the problems of animal pests and diseases.

Our work includes:

- developing national policies and strategies, and providing scientific advice that minimises the potential impacts of diseases on Australia's animal population
- supporting and enhancing trade and market access for animals and animal products
- liaising with public health, environmental and veterinary experts and agencies to advocate cooperation between animal, human and environmental health fields.

This important work occurs around Australia in offices, airports, mail centres, shipping ports, laboratories and abattoirs, and in various locations overseas.

The department recognises the importance of work/life balance and provides an excellent workplace environment.

To find out how you can become part of a highly valued team of animal health experts visit:
agriculture.gov.au/vetcareer.

Dr Mark Schipp

Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer and Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



Joe, Veterinary Officer

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS)



Murli, Principal Veterinary Officer

Live Animal Imports

Keeping a 'top watch' in Australia's north

'As a veterinary officer for the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy I survey domestic and wild animal populations in remote areas of the Northern Territory coast for exotic pests and diseases. I work closely with Indigenous ranger groups, pastoralists, park rangers and the public to educate them about these threats.

'My career highlights include securing an understanding with Bradshaw and Yampi Sound military training bases which allows us to survey their land for exotic pests and disease. I've made

lifelong friends in Papua New Guinea and have been involved in the set-up of the first Indigenous-run sentinel cattle herd in the Northern Territory, and have trained other Indigenous rangers.

'Though we work behind the scenes, our work is very important, especially with trade and maintaining Australia's freedom of disease status. I'm privileged to be part of the program—the responsibilities that come with it are huge when you really think about it.'

Implementing a better system for horse imports

'My biggest career achievement has been managing the team which implemented the government's response to the Equine Influenza Inquiry. This involved changes to virtually every aspect of horse importation to Australia, including implementing new import conditions, inspecting overseas pre-export quarantine facilities and upgrading our own quarantine stations.

'Pay and working conditions made moving to the Department of Agriculture very attractive.

When I wanted to do some volunteer vet work overseas the Department of Agriculture held a position for me and gave me several months leave without pay. The Department of Agriculture has trained me in management, leadership, exotic diseases, emergency disease response, food safety, auditing and more.

'It can feel especially hard in private practice to change your career path. Being trained as a vet gives you many skills and once you start looking you'll probably find you're suited to all sorts of areas.'