



DUTY STATEMENT

Job details

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| Job No: | XXXX & YYYY |
| Title: | Social Scientist |
| Classification: | DAFF Band 2 Work Level 6 |
| Division: | BRS |
| Branch: | ABARE/BRS Integrated Research Branch |
| Section: | Social Sciences and Policy |
| Location: | ACT |
| Job is accountable to: | SSP leader (DAFF Band 3 Work Level 8) |
| Employment Status: | 36 months non-ongoing |
| Hours | Full-time |
| Security Assessment: | Protected |

Environment

The BRS is the scientific bureau within DAFF. ABARE is the economic bureau within DAFF. At the interface between science and economics, the Integrated Research Branch of ABARE-BRS is an essential part of the government's capacity for integrated evidence-based policy development. Both bureaux provide advice to government in support of more profitable, competitive and sustainable Australian agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry industries and work to enhance the natural resource base to achieve greater national wealth and stronger rural and regional communities.

Social Sciences and Policy (SSP) is a recognised centre of research and policy expertise into rural industries, people and communities in Australia. SSP provides DAFF with a capability not available to most other agencies. We focus on priority policy and program directions of the Department, including:

- social adaptation to climate change and drought
- institutional analysis and adaptation to changes in water access for agriculture
- social aspects of biosecurity in agriculture
- social inclusion issues for rural people and communities.

The job

We are looking for a Social Scientist specialising in quantitative research methods to join our highly talented team of researchers delivering quality social science to underpin evidence-based policy. You will be working in a team environment and will be responsible for implementing social research projects related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resource management. Duties include:

1. Individually or as a member of a team, contribute to a range of research functions including:
 - designing and conducting research relating to social, cultural and human dimensions of agricultural industries and communities, and natural resource management.
 - examining the broader social, cultural and institutional dimensions of change (e.g. policy, market, technological, demographic, climate) in rural Australia.
 - preparing reports, papers and oral presentations to support evidence-based policy
2. Manage project resources including staff and finances and undertake other tasks as required.

3. Liaise with stakeholders in other areas of BRS, ABARE and with Commonwealth, State and non-Government organisations pursuant to the above duties, and represent the Bureaux and the Department at meetings and workshops as required.
4. Initiate and assist with the development of research proposals and tenders for consultancies.

Successful candidates will possess excellent track records of publication and research in the social sciences and be keen to develop their skills and career within an interdisciplinary research setting.

Selection criteria

Applicants may be assessed on application only- interviews may not be required.

1. Shapes strategic thinking

- Gathers and investigates information from a variety of sources and uses experience and judgment to analyse what information is important
- Ability to show judgment, intelligence and common sense to implement and promote improved work practices
- Clearly communicates goals and objectives to others

2. Achieves results

- Takes responsibility for assigned tasks and sees them through to completion.
- Monitors project progress and adjusts plans as required.
- Commits to achieving quality outcomes and adheres to documentation procedures.
- Responds in a positive and flexible manner to change and uncertainty.
- Takes responsibility for outcomes and sees tasks to completion.
- Manages conflicting time demands to ensure deliverables are achieved.

3. Cultivates productive working relationships

- Anticipates and is responsive to changes in client and stakeholder needs and provides a courteous, prompt and professional service
- Builds and sustains positive relationships with team members, supervisors, stakeholders and clients.
- Consults and shares information and ensures others are member kept informed of issues.
- Works collaboratively and operates as an effective team member

4. Exemplifies personal drive and integrity

- Takes personal responsibility for accurate completion of work within timeframes and quality requirements and takes the initiative to progress work when required
- Responds to feedback in a constructive manner
- Adheres to the APS Values and Code of Conduct and consistently behaves in an honest, ethical and professional way

5. Communicates with influence

- Confidently presents messages (both orally and in writing) in a clear, concise and articulate manner
- Tailors communication style and language according to the audience's level of knowledge, skill and experience

6. Subject matter expertise (*highly desirable*)

- Excellent working knowledge of and experience with quantitative methodologies for social science research.
- Experience with the use of demographic and other secondary data for trend analysis.

- Social science analysis relating to policy reform, change processes, adaptive capacity, resilience, systems approaches, adjustment, and/or risk management processes.
- Frameworks for understanding and investigating social values and aspirations, cultural and institutional dimensions of change in rural society.
- Social impact assessment and structural adjustment.
- Understanding of people living and working in rural, regional and remote Australia.
- Qualifications in relevant disciplines such as rural sociology, social psychology, human geography.

Security assessment

The successful applicant will be required to undergo a security assessment and maintain an ongoing Protected security clearance.

Contact

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