

POSITION DESCRIPTION

ORGANISATION:

Natural Hazards Research Australia

POSITION:

Innovation Manager

LOCATION:

Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney

REPORTS TO:

Partnership Development Director

CONTEXT

Natural Hazards Research Australia (the Centre) focuses on outcomes that will:

- Protect human life and minimise harm and suffering – towards zero preventable deaths.
- Contribute to well-prepared and resilient communities that are better informed of the risks associated with natural hazard exposure, are informed about strategies for mitigating the impacts from natural hazards and are able to make informed decisions if faced with a potential disaster.
- Translate research into action, maximising translation and implementation of research outcomes.

In delivering the strategy, the Centre will build Australian capability through:

- Strengthening relevant research capabilities.
- Supporting the development of sustainable research and its translation capabilities within research provider and end-user organisations.
- Strengthening and expanding the appropriate knowledge networks.

The Centre focuses on natural hazard resilience and disaster risk reduction to support the needs of a variety of critical stakeholders – including disaster resilience agencies and communities – in preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters caused by natural hazards.

The Centre involves a large number of participants drawn from government, private and not-for-profit sectors across Australia. The Centre has a strong focus on delivery of useable outputs to enhance the safety, resilience and sustainability of communities.

CENTRE VALUES

Respect – We value every voice and treat all people with dignity, courtesy and professionally.

Excellence – We commit to leading rigorous evidence -informed outcomes for purposeful impact.

Independent – We maintain autonomy in our research and decision-making for public value.

Innovative – We explore new approaches to provide creative solutions to complex issues.

Collaborative – We enable knowledge sharing and foster connections for mutual goals.

Integrity – We are honest and uphold the highest ethical standards in everything we do.

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The purpose of this position is to strengthen national disaster resilience by driving strategic capability development, innovation, and evidence-informed leadership across the sector to ensure Natural Hazards Research Australia (the Centre) delivers measurable real-world outcomes.

The Innovation Manager leads initiatives that build the capacity of executives and practitioners to navigate complexity, uncertainty, and emerging challenges, while fostering a culture of innovation and continuous learning, informed by research and science.

Through strategic foresight, thought leadership, policy engagement, and collaborative networks, the position identifies future risks and opportunities, translates research and evidence into practical outcomes, and influences policy and practice.

The role also designs and leads industry innovation challenges and communities of practice that bring together researchers, industry, government, and other end-users to co-design solutions, accelerate knowledge sharing, and enhance the sector's ability to anticipate, adapt to, and manage natural hazard risks.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership of Strategic Capability Development

Develop and implement executive development programs that build sector leader's ability to navigate complexity and uncertainty and utilize research and science.

Innovation and Foresight

Lead a forward-looking innovation and foresight agenda to identify emerging risks, opportunities and system-wide challenges in disaster resilience including authoring and the coordination of thought leadership publications for industry.

Thought Leadership

Drive the development of national-level insights, convening collaborative events and publications that influence public policy, practice and community outcomes.

Policy Engagement and Strategic Advice

Support the delivery of strategic research informed advice to government, industry and stakeholders to inform national policy development including authoring submissions to inquiries and policy discussions.

Industry Innovation Challenges

Design and lead industry innovation challenges that focus on mobilising the expertise of researchers, industry and end-users to deliver practical solutions to operational and strategic challenges.

Communities of Practice

Develop and implement a strategy to build communities practice or contribute to collaborative networks that bring together researchers and practitioners which build strong relationships, share knowledge and foster innovation in natural hazards resilience.

Administration

The Innovation Manager will undertake other reasonable tasks required to support the effective operation of the Centre.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal:

- All Centre staff

External:

- Senior members of participants in their responsible states
 - Staff from federal agencies and entities
 - Research teams
 - University research offices
 - Industry
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KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education:

- University degree, preferably in area relevant to innovation or public policy.

Specific knowledge and experience required:

- Demonstrated ability to lead complex, multi-stream programs in a national or multi-stakeholder environment.
- Proven capability to influence policy, strategy and organisational direction at senior levels, including contributing thought leadership that shapes emerging priorities and innovation agendas.
- Experience in horizon scanning, foresight methodologies and innovation programs.
- Demonstrated success in developing new services, products, platforms and programs arising from the research.
- Proven ability to build and maintain trusted relationships across government, research, industry and community sectors.
- Strong program management skills including frameworks, planning, governance, risk management and delivery.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills with experience in communicating technical language in plain language.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills, together with the ability to liaise effectively and build and maintain strong relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders and senior leaders.

Desirable knowledge and experience:

- At least 5 years' experience in a similar, or related role.
- Experience in innovation, commercialisation or technology transfer.

Behaviours

- Strategic and future-focused thinking.
- Curiosity and innovation.
- High levels of initiative and accountability
- Strong relationship-building capability.
- Thrives in a remote working environment.
- Actively demonstrates the values of the Centre at all times.