



*Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should note that this video may contain images and voices of persons who have passed away.*

Allan Holmes, Chief Executive:

Hi, I'm Allan Holmes, Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Heritage, and I would like to welcome you to our organisation.

This is a fantastic place to work.

Everyday I get great enjoyment, great satisfaction in working in this place because it's about doing something positive in our society, it's about doing something for our the environment for now and the long term.

Elijah Bravington, Project Officer:

Working for the Department for Environment and Heritage, it gives me that sense of purpose. I've constantly looked at ways of being of benefit towards the community. It helps me come to work every day knowing that I'm doing something I believe in. I strongly believe in it, the environment to me is second to none.

Cassandra Hlava, Graduate Ranger:

I've always been passionate about the environment. So whenever I see that a project's been successful it's really satisfying to know that I'm making a difference and doing something that I'm really passionate about.

Patricia von Baumgarten, Principal Marine Advisor:

My whole life I've really worked with the marine environment. I learned how to swim in the ocean and it's just what life is about for me. I always looked for a place where I had the freedom to exercise that passion, and I'm so happy that I found a home in South Australia in the Department for Environment and Heritage, because I love what I do, and I am supported I know the department wants to deliver on marine conservation.

Allan Holmes:

We're really interested in attracting all sorts of different people to our organisation.

Elijah Bravington:

Well I first became involved with the Department for Environment and Heritage in about 2003, they had a traineeship up for grabs.

Khanh Nguyen, Business Support Officer:

The traineeship program is a great program for young people to enter into government.



Elijah Bravington:

I successfully completed that, and they thought "Well, let's try him on the next step and put him into a cadetship." Having got that cadetship I went on to study Biodiversity and Conservation at Flinders University. Being a part of that cadetship I was also offered a base wage to work off while I was studying which made it particularly helpful.

Cassandra Hlava:

I really like my job because it gives me an opportunity to work outside, and that helps to keep me fit and healthy.

I'm on the graduate ranger program, which allows me to do rotations in different parts of the department and get a whole range of different experiences. It gives me a really good understanding of some of the other work that the Department for Environment and Heritage does, such as marine planning, and Aboriginal heritage, and they also have a whole heap of public attractions such as Cleland Wildlife Park, and Seal Bay on Kangaroo Island. Then there's the Botanic Gardens. It has given me an opportunity to interact with the public, and I think that's really going to help my career in the future.

There's no average day at work. You can be working on one project one day, and then something completely different the next. It gives you this ability to think on your feet. But it's really exciting as well, it keeps it different and interesting.

Patricia von Baumgarten:

I spend a lot of my time thinking, trying to be creative about how we're going to make sure that people enjoy the marine environment, that we have industries that grow, but at the same time that we protect our marine life. Things like establishing Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary in metropolitan Adelaide, which was a process where we needed to have partnerships with other agencies, community and industries. It's an area that is heavily used by industry, so we had to come up with a model that would ensure that people were still enjoying that environment but also looking after the dolphins and their habitat. So for example, we have two rangers who talk to people about where not to throw rubbish, and make sure they put it in the bins. We have rules about recreational fishing, and those rangers ride in a boat, and walk around the sanctuary making sure that people know what they can and cannot do.

Leanne Liddle, Aboriginal Wildlife Programs Coordinator:

"Kuka Kanyini" is a Pitjantjatjara word, which loosely translated into English means "*looking after game animals*". But it's a lot more than that, it actually



looks at improving people's emotional and physical wellbeing using land management as a basis. We're actually providing real employment for Aboriginal people. These people are experts in their field, and we're utilising those resources and producing the outcomes that we need at the end of the day.

Khanh Nguyen:

The Department for Environment and Heritage is a very innovative workplace. For example, we just introduced new software called Microsoft Sharepoint. It's a website where people can create blogs, can put their pictures up, and upload their projects to share the information.

Leanne Liddle:

I think the project Kuka Kanyini is really important because I see some of the young children coming up to me and saying they'd really like to do my job when they get older. It's a unique project and the department's done really well to embrace it. I value the department in that they've tried something new.

Patricia von Baumgarten:

It's really important to have the support of the department for those ideas that can be sometimes quite unusual. And a good example of that is the animated short film, "The amazing adventure of Gavin the Leafy Sea Dragon"

"Oh look there are two moons tonight!"

"It's a plastic bag, Gavin."

The department is prepared to trust us and to embark on creative solutions for some of the problems we have.

Khanh Nguyen:

The Dept for Environment and Heritage is a very diverse workplace, it has people from all different age groups and all different backgrounds.

Leanne Liddle:

I try to encourage a lot of Indigenous people out there to see what we've got to offer. If you look at Aboriginal history and their relationship with the land and their interaction with the land, you're looking at over 40,000 years. I'm glad that the Dept for Environment and Heritage values that, and translates that into a project that really has successful outcomes.

Cassandra Hlava:

There's a lot of opportunities for female rangers. The way the department supports female rangers is really good in helping us to build up the necessary skills to get the job done. It's really great to have a female role model to look up to, who's been there and experienced some of the challenges. That's



really encouraging for me because I can see where my career might be heading in the future.

Khanh Nguyen:

In the office where I work I have an office manager who is female, she started off in a low position and she worked herself up to a senior position. I work very closely with her, and she really encourages me to excel more, to learn more.

Patricia von Baumgarten:

Being a Principle Marine Advisor, it is a very senior position, a position that requires a lot of trust, a lot of belief. And I think that is fantastic because it does inspire young females to remain with the department and aim for something bigger.

Allan Holmes:

Our department's one where there are many, many career paths. And if you start as a junior in the administrative area, if you start as a young scientist or if you start as an IT specialist, you can see multiple paths that you can follow in our organisation.

Patricia von Baumgarten:

The department really invests in me, in a human being, in a professional capacity and a personal capacity as well. They're inspirational. I've never worked in an organisation like the Dept for Environment and Heritage that has been inspirational. There is great leadership, and that makes all the difference to be. They believe in me. As far as the future goes, I think I have a brilliant future, because I have the freedom and support to choose where I want to be.

Allan Holmes:

If you want to come to South Australia, if you want to work in a great organisation that's there to look after the environment for us, and for future generations then this is the place for you.

Elijah Bravington:

The future is what you make of it.

I mean, the sky could be the limit. Who knows, I might end up as CE one day!

*The Department for Environment and Heritage is an equal opportunity employer. The Department welcomes all skilled people to help deliver our goals, including women, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Island, people with disability, and people from different cultural background*