

Position Description - Senior Science Communicator

The ARDC is a nationally funded organisation with the vision of enabling and improving access to nationally significant and leading edge data-intensive infrastructures, platforms, skills and collections of high-quality data for Australian researchers, industry, and government. While the Communication and Engagement Manager is based in Brisbane, the ARDC is a highly distributed organisation and there is considerable flexibility in the location for this role.

Position purpose

The purpose of this role is to clearly communicate ARDC's activities, purpose and impact through the development of high quality, effective and engaging content that is delivered through multiple channels to multiple audiences. The role supports the ARDC Communication and Engagement Manager.

The Senior Science Communicator is responsible for:

- the identification, development and delivery of impact stories on data, digital infrastructure and eResearch services that are relevant, engaging and compelling for multiple audiences
- assisting in the development of a proactive media strategy to increase coverage of the ARDC's impact in the research sector through print, broadcast and online media.
- assisting in the coordination of the ARDC's communication outputs through its various communication channels.

Reporting Line: The position reports to the Communication and Engagement Manager and works with a considerable degree of autonomy.

Supervisory responsibilities: None

Key responsibilities

1. Identify stories and develop engaging content, for a range of audiences and ARDC publications including news stories, newsletters, website and social media content; highlighting the benefits and impact of research infrastructure in general and ARDC's activities in particular.
2. Assisting in the coordination of all ARDC communication activities for maximum impact.
3. Develop and maintain a network of primary media contacts to support ARDC in sharing its messages.
4. Manage the digital and social media platforms, to ensure they reflect and deliver on the ARDC's emerging positioning and brand strategy.

5. Review and reinvigorate existing analytical frameworks measuring the effectiveness of communication and engagement activities & campaigns. This includes monitoring digital metrics such as audience engagement, size and content to contribute to growing our audience reach.
6. Provide strategic advice, including development of media responses and content for internal and external channels, reports, events and other communication materials as required.
7. Foster and maintain effective relationships with a range of internal and external stakeholders to proactively identify, source and develop content.
8. Provide support and recommendations on the development of communication content for key ARDC initiatives.
9. Contribute to project planning and development, and assist with implementation and evaluation.
10. Other activities as directed.

Key Selection Criteria

Education/Qualifications

The appointee will have:

- An undergraduate degree (or higher) qualification in Science communication, communication or a related discipline; or
- at least five years' experience in writing and editing in a similar role; or
- an equivalent combination of relevant knowledge, training and/or experience.

Knowledge and Skills - Essential

1. Well-developed plain English writing and editing skills.
2. Demonstrated ability to produce high quality written work in a variety of forms and attention to detail.
3. Demonstrated high-level interpersonal communication skills.
4. Demonstrated extensive experience leading, developing, and delivering successful content and communications projects utilising integrated communication platforms.
5. Ability to work independently under limited direction while managing competing priorities and meeting deadlines.
6. An ability to guide and influence senior stakeholders and manage expectations to ensure that contemporary best practice is followed.

Knowledge and Skills - Desirable

1. Demonstrated experience in science communications roles within medium to large research sector organisations.
2. Understanding of making digital content accessible to a wide audience including lay and expert consumers.