

# ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

PO Box 44 Woodside SA 5244

## 2008 / 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

To the SA Public & Environmental Health Council pursuant to Section 44 (1) of the

## PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT 1987

### 1 PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

#### 1.1 Environmental Health Staff Numbers

Please provide a snapshot of council's environmental health workforce on **30 June 2009** by completing the tables below.

This information is requested to inform State and National environmental health workforce initiatives.

Permanent <b>full time</b> employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week) <b>(30 June 2009)</b>			
Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Kaye Arnold	Diploma Public Health Inspection and Meat & Other Foods, Royal Society Health London	27 years	Nov 1991
Alexis Black	Bachelor Science Environmental Health Cert (TAFE)	15 years	26/11/1996
Kimberley Pearson (Jul-Aug 08 & Mar-Jun 09) (maternity leave)	Bachelor Environmental Health	7 years	6 /10/2003
Brian McGuinness (Jul-Oct 08)	Bachelor Environmental Health	5 years	May 2005

Permanent <b>part time</b> employed environmental health officers <b>(30 June 2009)</b>				
Full name	Qualifications	Average hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Carolyn Macuinas	Bachelor Environmental Health	24 hours	2 years	May 2007
Peter Morgan	Associate Diploma Environmental Health	19 hours	16 years	2001
Ken Firth	Associate Diploma in	19 hours	25 years	1984

	Environmental Health (Regency Park)			

Temporary <b>contract employed</b> environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates
Jane Hendry	Bachelor Environmental Health	38 hours	2 years	1/9/08

<b>Contracted non-employee</b> environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates

Environmental health officer <b>positions vacant (30 June 2009) Nil</b>				
Position type (fulltime/ part time/ contract)	Position hours/week	When the position was first advertised (date)?	Number of suitably qualified applicants (at 30/6/09)	Comments regarding this position.

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public &amp; Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses (2 casual )	

Administration	0.4 FTE
Other (please specify)	

## 1.2 Staff Training

*Detail training and development implemented during the financial year to maintain/develop EHO or ancillary staff skills and knowledge.*

- Legionella Training (New Regulations/Code) – 5 Officers - 2 Days
- Clandestine Drug Lab Training – 2 officers – 1 Day
- Food Seminar – 2 officers 1 Day
- White Card training – 4 officers 1 Day
- Biolytix Training – 5 officers - 1/2 Day
- Food Auditors Cse – 1 officer – 5 Days
- Business/Writing Skills – 7 officers – 1 Days
- Aerial Map Training - 5 officers – ½ Day
- EHA Conference – 5 Officers – 3 days
- Plumbing Training Course – 2 officers – 1 Day
- Skin Penetration Training – 1 officer – 1 Day
- Access Training – 1 officer – 2 Days

## PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT & REGULATIONS

*Complete details of measures taken under Part III of the P&EH Act (protection of public health relating to sanitation, drainage and protection of water supplies) & P&EH Regulations (waste control).*

Section No.	Type	No. of complaints received	No. of notices served	No. of court / appeals / expiations
<b>Public &amp; Environmental Health Act, Part III</b>				
15 & 16	Prevention / offences re insanitary conditions on premises	<b>52</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>
17	Control of offensive activities			
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place			
19	Private thoroughfare			
20	Provision of adequate sanitation			
21	Pollution of water	<b>4</b>		
22	Closure of water supplies			
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders		<b>3</b>	
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS			

### 2.1 Monitoring and management of Insanitary Conditions

#### 2.1.1 Please briefly describe the chief causes of insanitary conditions reported (eg hoarded materials, pest infestation).

The main problems experienced in the Adelaide Hills were:

- Failing waste control systems, which result in effluent discharging at surface level and often entering neighbouring properties.
- Effluent running into watercourses. which is a particular problem in the Adelaide Hills Council which is in the Mount Lofty Ranges Watershed

These issues are of an ongoing nature and whilst considerable work has been undertaken to rectify many of the failing waste control systems, there continues to be much work needed due to the fact that many systems are undersized, poorly maintained and outdated

**2.1.2 Please briefly describe the properties most implicated in the insanitary conditions reported (eg rental properties, privately owned).**

- There is no difference between privately owned or rental properties in relation to the insanitary conditions investigated.
- There can be disputes between owners and tenants of rental properties, which result in protracted time frames in remedying an insanitary condition. This is particularly noticeable where waste control systems are involved and considerable cost is required.

**2.1.3 Please briefly describe the primary impediments to resolving the insanitary conditions reported.**

- The main impediment with the insanitary conditions primarily encountered is the financial cost to upgrade a waste control system this is most evident when the property is for sale and people are reluctant to upgrade the system when they are unsure of the buyer's intention for the property.

**2.2 Monitoring and management of Offensive Activities**

**2.2.1 Please briefly describe the offensive activities requiring the action described in the table above under the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.**

- There has only two confirmed issues in relation to "offensive activities" during the report period. These were in relation to odours from stockpiling chicken manure from chicken broilers.

**3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

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**3.1 List the more significant environmental health issues currently facing the local community and what is being done to address them**

Climate change is resulting in emerging issues particularly in relation to possible heat waves and the provision of cool areas for the elderly community.  
Council is currently considering the options available for managing this.

The emergence of the H1N1 Influenza pandemic has put Council on full alert for possible future vaccination programs and preliminary preparation has been undertaken.

**3.2 Prioritisation process**

**3.2.1 How was council made aware of these priority issues (eg investigation, research, complaint)?**

Council has received enquiries from the public and from its Community Services section.  
It has also been recognised as a risk factor in Council's Climate Change Risk Management Assessment

**3.2.2 How were these issues prioritised (number of people affected, risk, politics) ?**

The issues have been prioritised due to the risk factor with the likelihood of the above issues having an impact on the community being high.

**3.3 Detail any programs specifically aimed at dealing with public health issues related to vulnerable groups in your community (eg aboriginal, migrants, and the aged).**

**3.3.1 Community Services - Support For Vulnerable Groups**

**SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

- Provision of Homeassist services to enable people to remain safely and independently at home for as long as possible eg social support, transport, cleaning, home maintenance and modifications, gardening, respite for carers
- Retirement Accommodation for people on lower incomes
- Day Activities Programs for frail and disabled people to reduce isolation and improve general health
- Strength and Balance classes run at various venues
- The Club, Book Clubs and Lets Do Lunch social support activities at 2 venues
- Council supports the Hills Community Passenger Network for all transport disadvantaged and coordinates the running of 4 community buses
- Council hosts the regional Positive Ageing Project which focuses on the planning and development of better services for older, disabled and carers
- Recreation project focuses on access to recreation for people with a disability
- Development of Aged Strategy and Disability Action Plan and Recreation and Sport Plan
- Development of Caring in our Community volunteer based support for older-disabled residents
- Support development of social housing in the LGA for people with a disability or older people on low incomes

**YOUTH**

- Coordination of youth activities across the Council area eg school holiday programs to increase activity levels and reduce isolation.
- Involvement in local Drug Action Team
- Youth Advisory Committee to provide young people with access to decision making and planning activities on their behalf
- Input into planning eg new recreation and sport opportunities eg BMX and skate facilities
- Disposition of mobile skate ramp across the Council area
- Participation in Youth Expo, Chicken Stock music festival and Rocktober
- Provision and support for parenting education
- Twice yearly Driver Awareness programs for young drivers
- Youth Summit for youth consultation on issues affecting them

**MIGRANTS**

- Planning for support for new settlers
- Practical support through furniture collections, ESL classes, transport, social activities
- Celebrating cultural events eg New Moon Festival

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

- Recognition of contribution of local aboriginal people
- Planning to improve access to services, service planning and provision of appropriate services provide.
- Celebrations eg NAIDOC Week activities

## GENERAL

- Provision of community information
- Community Grants which support community development, lifelong learning, recreation and health
- Support for volunteering eg establishment of Hills Volunteering to support all volunteer organisations and support people seeking employment and volunteer recognition activities
- Support for The Hut and Torrens Valley Community centres which provide a wide range of information, education, classes, social activities, practical support for all the community including supporting healthy lifestyles. Two new projects at the Hut focus on activity for older people and adopting healthy lifestyles.
- Provision of community transport
- Community activities eg Photographic Competition
- Planning activities eg Council Sport and Recreation Plan, Community Plan
- Support for Women's Health Program in Woodside
- Support for Hills Domestic Violence Action Group with a focus on community education and awareness

## 4 DISEASE CONTROL

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### 4.1 Monitoring of Pools & Spas (public aquatic facilities) to minimise the incidence of water-borne illness *(please complete the table below and provide details of any special activities, eg, training etc.)*

Type of Pool	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Number of Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Swimming	10	14			14
Spa					
Hydrotherapy	3	3			3
Waterslide					
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>17</b>

Any Additional Comments?

One swimming pool was closed by Council as the operators were consistently unable to meet the required standards. The operator indicated that the maintenance was a low priority to the owner during the current economic climate and as such they had shut down automatic dosing and reduced the operator hours to maintain the system.

The pool was closed until the standards were met.

### 4.2 Monitoring & investigation to minimise the incidence of Legionnaires Disease *(please complete the table below and provide details of any special activities, eg, training, investigations etc)*

Type of System	Number registered in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Number of Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Cooling Water System	36 (22 premises)			Inspections were conducted on properties in conjunction with explanation of new code	22
Warm Water System	15 (thus far)				0
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>				<b>22</b>

#### Any Additional Comments?

Minister of Education & Child Services has yet to advise of the number of schools which have warm water systems.

6 cooling tower premises have ozone treatment and are reluctant to install automatic dosing equipment.

#### 4.3 Monitoring and control of Waste Control Systems (eg. septic tanks, STEDS, CEDS)

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints
Septic Tank	75	187	31
Aerobic System	135	438	4
Other (STEDS)	45	118	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>37</b>

#### Any Additional Comments ?

- The number of applications and inspections has remained consistent with the previous year.
- The number of complaints has again decreased. This decrease in the number of complaints is credited to the increased attendance at installation inspections and the number of rectified systems.
- Council ensures all septic tanks/waste control systems connected to STEDS, are pumped out every 4 years, under its compulsory desludging program. At this time, the systems are examined for any faults and rectified accordingly.
- Maintenance sheets for aerobic waste control systems are received and recorded for all systems, with owners followed up, if quarterly maintenance reports are not received.

#### 4.4 **Immunisation programs**

Please provide details on the number of clinics conducted during the reporting period

<i>Clinic Type</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	24
Number of School Clinics	21
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	3
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	14
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>62</i>

#### 4.5 **Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

Provide details of actions resulting from notifiable disease notifications received from CDCB (insert a table if preferred)

- All potentially food/water related disease notifications received from the CDCB were followed up, where contact details were made available.
- Where required, leaflets on the relevant disease were provided to the resident.
- Food premises inspections were carried out in instances where a particular food business was implicated by the disease sufferer.

#### 4.6 **Monitoring of Hairdressing, Beauty & Skin Penetration businesses**

Type of Facility	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Tattoo Parlours & Body Piercing	1	0	0	0	1
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	36	11	0	0	11
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>				<b>11</b>

Any Additional Comments ?

Nil

**4.7 Monitoring and control of Vectors and Other Pests** (include level of activity, control measures, number/regularity of complaints, education programs etc)

Vector or Pest	Number of Complaints	Control Program (Y/N) (Please provide further details below)
Mosquitoes	0	
Rodents	5	Regular baiting program of high infestation areas on Council land and buildings
Head Lice	0	
Flies	0	
Pigeons	0	
Scabies	0	
Cockroaches	0	
Bees	8	Contractor advice provided to residents
European Wasps	1405	Control by nest destruction by Council staff and contractors
Other (please describe)	0	

**Description of control program (identifying vector/pest and activity undertaken)**

- Council employs a licensed pest operating company to undertake a rodent baiting program on Council owned land where rodents are a problem and information is provided to residents as necessary. This has resulted in a marked reduction of 90% in rodent complaints received by Council.
- Information sheets are also readily available to the residents and advice is provided by staff on request for all pest and vector activities
- European wasps continue to be an ongoing problem in the Adelaide Hills Council area, with 1405 nests destroyed during the report period. (In comparison, 349 nests were destroyed in 2007-08 season, with 1750 nests in the previous 2006-07 season) The European wasp numbers appear to be cyclic with a marked increase or decrease on the preceding year. This could be due to weather patterns; however the cyclic nature suggests other factors are also influencing the number of nests destroyed in any given year.
- Council destroys all located nests free of charge and continues to educate the public through advertising.

**4.8 Monitoring & control of Animal Keeping Facilities** (eg. domestic animals, petting zoos, kennels)

- Council has two known petting zoos which are inspected annually to ensure the Petting Zoo Guidelines are met.
- The Council Rangers inspect the 15 animal kennels in this area and report to the Environmental Health Unit if there are any issues.

**4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu**

- Council has a supply of facial masks
- The Council promoted the “Wash, wipe and cover” program

- Council is a member of the local Regional Pandemic Committee.
- Pandemic Flu is referenced in Council's Emergency Management Plan

#### 4.10 Other

### 5 PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

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**5.1 Does Council have a current Public & Environmental Health Management Plan or Strategic/ Corporate Plan that forward plans the environmental health activities of Council?**

**YES**

**IF NO**

Does Council expect to produce one within the next 2 years?

**YES / NO**

**IF YES**

Date commenced

June 2005

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

**YES**

(If Yes, go to next item)

*Provide a summary of how the Plan responds to the needs of the local community, how it is progressing and how regularly it is reviewed.*

- The Public and Environmental Health Plan, 2005 – June 2010 was produced following extensive community consultation. Any emerging trends in environmental health including local, national and world health policy, are incorporated in the plan revision, or as the need arise.
- Issues raised by the community if relative, are also included.
- Performance indicators are linked with the annual Performance Plans review, of each individual Environmental Health Officer.
- Where other Sections of Council is involved, a reporting mechanism is provided to ensure the Key Performance Measures have been undertaken within the allocated time frames.
- The Environmental Health Strategies have been met for 2007-08 in accordance with the key performance Indicators

#### **Review.**

- The Plan is reviewed internally on an annual basis to ensure it meets emerging trends in public and environmental health planning.
- Monitoring of the plan's progress is undertaken through the performance appraisal process and new tasks are assigned at this time

A full review of the plan will be carried out in May 2010 via further community consultation

### 6. HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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*Include Council initiatives, activities and programs designed to promote public health issues to the community including those delivered in partnership with others. (eg. training sessions, workshops, radio interviews, presentations / education sessions to schools/community groups, educational materials produced, newsletter articles, studies or trials). Provide details of consultation and community involvement, the variety of communication tools used (eg. local newspaper/radio, Council pamphlets, shopping centre displays) and how projects are evaluated.*

The Environmental Health Unit Officers undertook the following health promotion activities;

- Health matters were outlined in Council's quarterly annual news letter, based on seasonal issues

- Information “Fact Sheets” are made available to the public through Council’s Internet site and service centres.
- Media articles are provided to the local Courier newspaper.
- Council is involved in the school education programs at Heathfield High School and Onkaparinga Area School
- Lectures were given to Flinders University Environmental Health Students on wastewater
- A presentation on the effects of climate change in relation to health and other factors was given to an Elderly Citizen Group
- Onsite training was provided for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Flinders University Environmental Health Student
- Council participated in Earth Hour an energy saving program

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

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*Provide details of activities designed to reduce and prevent exposure of individuals to health hazards. May include number/types of complaints received, issues dealt with, concerns, inventories held etc.*

### **7.1 Monitoring to ensure Potable Water (eg. rainwater tanks, bores)**

Council arranges testing of non reticulated water sources as required and routinely tests Council owned water supplies (bores)

### **7.2 Monitoring to ensure Water Quality / Protection of Waterways and Catchments**

- Council officers are working closely with SA Water to ensure protection of the catchment water. In this joint program SA Water notify Council of any high levels of contaminants in routine testing and investigations are carried out upstream to determine the source. This is carried out in conjunction with the Waste Control Project, where the project officer, identifies waste control system failures and seeks remediation.

### **7.3 Waste Management Practices (domestic waste, landfills, green waste, recycling, solid waste, hazardous waste) (eg. types and regularity of services)**

- 6,950 tonnes of waste was collected through Councils weekly kerbside collection system (140L bin). This is a decrease of 500 tonnes from the previous year which reflects efforts to reduce wastes to landfill
- In addition 4,300 tonnes of recyclables were collected at the fortnightly kerbside recycling service (280 L bins)
- Green waste is recycled through the Council’s waste transfer station.
- All rate payers are also issued with one free tip pass to dispose of refuse and green waste at the Council’s waste transfer station.. This is in the interests of discouraging illegal dumping and fire prevention.
- Council is a member of the Adelaide Hills Regional Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA) which operates a landfill at Hartley.
- The Council also continues to operate a waste transfer station at Heathfield.
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- Council currently has no operating landfill sites within its boundary, with Council's 3 landfill sites having closed with significant post closure works nearing completion.
- Many small commercial premises use Council's normal refuse collection, while larger business have their own contractual arrangements for bulk bins and grease arrestor pump-outs.
- Occasionally complaints are received relating to commercial bins due to overfilling and odour. In the summer/autumn months European Wasps are attracted to the commercial bins. The design of the commercial bins is such that many proprietors tend to keep the bins open as the lids are too heavy for staff. Where food scraps are involved officers frequently have to remind proprietors to keep the bin lids closed and alternative bin types are suggested.
- The Adelaide Hills Council also implements an internal recycling policy, which sees significant quantities of paper and cardboard recycled through the offices. Other items, such as glass, aluminium and other packaging are also recycled through one of the waste transfer stations.
- The Heathfield Waste Transfer Station operates the drumMuster recycling programme. 5,288 drums were received in 08/09.

#### **7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land**

Council monitors contaminated land sites as required

#### **7.5 Monitoring and Control of Hazardous Substances (eg. asbestos, medical waste)**

- Council provides advice regarding safe handling of and responsible disposal of asbestos. Contained asbestos is accepted at Council's waste transfer stations, mainly to prevent illegal dumping and is transferred to a landfill authorised to accept such waste.
- In the interests of promoting safe disposal of sharps and syringes:
  - Syringes are collected as reported by the public
  - Sharps containers are accepted from the public at the Stirling and Woodside offices
  - Syringe disposal units are located in public toilets throughout the Council area, and
  - Sharps containers are available for purchase from Council at cost price.
- Advice is provided to the community regarding the safe disposal of hazardous substances. Those not accepted at Council's waste transfer stations are referred to the Environment Protection Agencies hazardous waste disposal facility.

#### **7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality**

Air Pollution 13 complaints were received and these ranged from chicken manure odours associated with chicken broiler facilities to chemical odours and animal carcass odours.

#### **7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations**

**Noise** -19 complaints were received ranging from air conditioner units, chopping wood, loud music to the operation of rural pumps

**7.8 Monitoring and Control of Recreation Facilities** (eg. risk assessment of playgrounds, inspections of camping areas etc.)

**7.9**

- Council commissioned an audit of all playgrounds (The Playgrounds Audit and Safety Inspection report). This report has provided direction for upgrading Council's many playgrounds. A 5 year plan has been established outlining the future actions to be undertaken.
- Upgrading of playgrounds is underway.

**7.9 Emergency Planning Activities** (eg. disaster recovery / business continuity plans)

The Environmental Health Emergency management Plan has been completed and inserted in Council's Emergency management Plan

**7.10 Rural and Urban Planning Activities** (eg. number of development applications assessed by EHOs)

- A total of 280 Development applications were assessed by the EHO staff these included:
  - 70 Land division and boundary realignment applications
  - 12 applications related to Bed & Breakfast facilities, restaurants, wine tasting facilities etc
  - 198 applications related to new dwellings of upgrades to existing dwellings

**8. OTHER**

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*Please provide details of any other public & environmental health issues encountered by Council. (eg, complex investigations, participation in major events and festivals, strategic planning and implementation programs etc)*

Council Environmental Health Officers attended the following events to ensure adequate sanitation was provided along with safe food handling;

- Lobethal Grand Carnival
- Lobethal Lights
- Oakbank Easter Carnival
- Bay to Birdwood
- Rock 'n' Roll Rendezvous
- Gumeracha Medieval Fair
- The English Ale
- Gumeracha Antique Fair
- Stirling Christmas Pageant
- Stirling Autumn Garden Festival
- Tour Down Under
- Hill Harvest Festival
- Lobethal Markets
- Stirling Market
- Uraidla Show

Environmental Health Officers are involved in all planning in relation to events, both major or minor with regard to provision of sanitary facilities, waste disposal and food matters.

**This report is to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in soft copy emailed to:**

**[andrew.vickers@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.vickers@health.sa.gov.au)**

**Please note that hard copies are no longer required to be sent to the Public and Environmental Health Council.**