

KANGAROO ISLAND COUNCIL

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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 **full time** employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week)
(30 June 2009)

Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Peter Henry Moors	B.App. Sc. (Env.Hlth.)	11 yrs 1 mth	12/8/2002

Permanent **part time** employed environmental health officers **(30 June 2009)**

Full name	Qualifications	Average hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)

Temporary contract employed environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates

Contracted non-employee 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 positions vacant (30 June 2009)				
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.

NOTE: The Part time Building Inspector resigned in early May. Whilst employed he was also used as a relief for the EHO since he was also a fully qualified EHO.

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	0.05
Administration	

Other (please specify) General Inspectors (2)	Handle animal and some other complaints
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1.2 Staff Training

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

24 September 2008 EHO attendance at seminar on Clandestine Drug Laboratories.

9 February 2009 EHO attended enHealth workshop at Unley Council.

15, 16 & 17 April 2009 EHO at Environmental Health Australia, SA State Conference.

9 June 2009 morning - EHO attended Health Dept. conference/advice session at Hindmarsh on Swine Flu.

9 June 2009 Afternoon – EHO attended Southern Region EHO conference to discuss regional Env. Hlth. issues

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
Public & Environmental Health Act, Part III				
15 & 16	Prevention / offences re insanitary conditions on premises	2	2	2
17	Control of offensive activities	0	0	0
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	0	0	0
19	Private thoroughfare	0	0	0
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	0	0	0
21	Pollution of water	0	0	0
22	Closure of water supplies	0	0	0
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	0	0	0	0
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	0	0	0

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).

1. Owner appeared to be suffering from senility & did not recognise that he was creating problems by not cleaning the dwelling. Whilst there were some hoarded materials, most of the problems stemmed from failing to clean and tidy-up. Toilet blocked and owner trying to blame others for "breaking in and using toilet". Old mattresses and lounges infested with pests. The area surrounding the dwelling on the allotment was littered with rubbish, including old refrigerators, car parts etc. etc. We were unable to confirm that there was a functioning septic tank on the property as Council had no records and there was no trace of any septic tank or disposal area.

2. No approved waste control system. Property was then sold at auction and the new owner installed a septic tank etc after obtaining Council approval.

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

1. Privately owned. No help from two sons. Most of the clean-up work was done by staff from the Cook Community Health Centre.

2. Privately owned, but a marriage break-up then resulted in both partners denying liability. It appears that the previous owners were the ones who ignored the Dept of Health approval for a septic and soakage system, and went ahead and installed a suspect composting toilet.

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

1. The attitude of the property owner who did not recognise the rights of Council's relief EHO to issue an Insanitary Notice and became quite abusive at a subsequent meeting attended by the usual EHO.

2. Lack of money for both ex husband and ex wife. After the property was sold at auction, the new owner lost no time in contacting the EHO and lodging a waste control application.

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.

3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

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

The number of elderly persons on the island appears to be growing. This is already creating problems with a growing number of people on “gophers” negotiating the streets of Kingscote especially. In turn, the number of complaints about the footpaths has been growing and Council is having to do remedial work on them so that they can be safely negotiated by “gophers”.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Complaints about footpaths, including a petition from 60 people to Council earlier in the year on the state of the footpaths. This resulted in Council doing some remedial work immediately. In addition, there is a report to Council to be presented at the next meeting, that proposes to install 27 new “pram ramps” on footpaths in the 4 main townships on the island, and 250m of new gravelled footpath for American River. This will depend upon the outcome of the latest request for RLCIP funding.

Council’s existing footpath program is currently on hold pending more funds becoming available from the budget.

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

Prioritisation is usually made by the EHO on the basis of Risk Assessment, since this is a way of taking into account the important issues. However, with the footpath issue, the petition and the fact that several of our elderly citizens had had spills from their “gophers”, was enough to make Council take immediate action.

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).

See above for one issue related to the aged.

4 DISEASE CONTROL

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	9	7	0	0	7
Spa	7	2	0	0	2
Hydrotherapy	0				
Waterslide	0				
Other					
Total	16	9	0	0	9

Any Additional Comments?

Kangaroo Island Council also maintains a tidal pool which is not picked up under the P&EH legislation.

One pool and 2 spas are at a new tourist resort, while a further spa has just been discovered at an existing tourist destination. These have not yet been inspected.

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	Nil				
Warm Water System	1	1			1
Other	0				
Total	1	1	0	0	1

Any Additional Comments?

The Kangaroo Island Health Service had a new warm water system installed at the Kingscote Hospital late in 2008. No water samples have yet been taken by the EHO, but the system is now on the register, and the EHO has received further training in these systems.

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	54	160	4
Aerobic System	11	33	2
Biolytix	1	3	
Temporary Containment	2	6	
American River Sewerage	2	4	
Total	70	206	6

Any Additional Comments ?

The American River sewerage scheme is now up and running and any new applications will be for direct connection to the sewers, without the need for a septic tank. Currently work is being done to connect all of the existing properties. Instead of having the expense and associated problems with trying to put easements through existing properties, Council decided to provide a number of properties with a pump and pump sump when they were unable to be connected by gravity connection.

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	0
Number of School Clinics (3 schools x 5	15
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics No clinics held. Arrangements made with local medical centre clinic nurse –Approx 43 staff immunised	
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	0
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	0
<i>Total</i>	

Council discontinued the previous regular monthly clinics when the local Medical Clinic employed a Practice Nurse for immunisation and then bulk-billed.

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

2 cases of Hep A involving mother and son. As part of the investigation the EHO inspected a local Food Business as well as the toilet facilities of the local school.

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	0				0
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	5	3	0	0	3
Other	0				0
Total	5	3			3

Any Additional Comments ?

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	4	No
Rodents		No
Head Lice		No
Flies	1	No
Pigeons		No
Scabies		No
Cockroaches		No
Bees		No
European Wasps		No
Other (please describe)		-

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

Very few complaints about mosquitoes due to lack of water lying about (drought). Public education re mosquitoes & mice carried out by the use of notices in the local paper both before and during the season. Head lice problems are usually handled by the schools without assistance. One complaint (by the EHO!) about drain flies (also known as moth flies). There is very little information available about how to deal with these pests

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

Three animal keeping facilities inspected on the island (pound, kennels & vet. Practice). Most domestic animal complaints/enquiries are handled by the General Inspectors.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Report prepared for Council and then links to Dept of Health websites placed on Council's website – reminders in Council's page in the local newspaper.

4.10 Other

5 PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

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?

NO

IF NO

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

NO

IF YES

Date commenced

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

YES / NO

(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.

6. HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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.

Council takes up ½ to 1 page of each weekly newspaper for usual Council announcements. The EHO uses this space to highlight any health issues, such as mosquitoes, vermin, swine flu, food safety training, asbestos, wood-heater burning and food safety issues.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

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)

No monitoring done by Council for Potable water. Advice on cleaning, sanitising and/or testing rainwater offered.

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

EHO and other outside staff such as General Inspectors keep an eye on what they can during normal inspectorial duties.

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

Council has an excellent waste management system, with rubbish and recycling bins collected weekly all over the island. Much of this waste is then repatriated to the mainland where the recycling materials are sorted and the other waste is disposed of in landfill. Green waste is not collected but may be taken to the waste depot where it is then mulched and in most cases, composted. Biosolids from the 4 yearly septic tank desludging program are placed in large porous “socks” on concrete hardstands, where the water/liquid is allowed to drain out. This is collected and used along with collected rainwater, to keep the composting mulch dampened. Council is licensed to collect asbestos waste and correctly packaged material is placed into a special landfill for that purpose. A recycling “shop” is maintained by Council at the waste depot for people who can use what other people discard. Car bodies are stacked and collected until Sims Metal or some other recycling business comes over and crushes the vehicles and pays Council for the metal collected (less freight etc.). Recently a huge pile of waste timber was burned on site after careful negotiations with the EPA and with the assistance of the CFS. Waste oil is collected at the wharf, Council’s depot and Council’s waste depot, while used tyres, batteries etc are also collected for eventual use/removal. Medical waste (such as sharps) is removed under contract on behalf of the local hospital and Council contributes to the cost. Council also provided free sharps containers via the Cook Community Health Clinic to lessen the likelihood of these dangerous articles being discarded on the streets and in the bushland. Most of the public toilets carry sharps containers for the same reason.

7.3 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

No Official Council register of contaminated sites, due to uncertainty over liability in such cases (eg, if a site is not listed, is Council liable?). EHO maintains a non-official list of properties suspected of being contaminated either from current or past practices on site. Council would appreciate some legal advice on this issue.

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

Refer to comments under 7.3. In addition, the EHO investigates any instances of reported illegal asbestos removal. Carter Corporation visited the island this year as part of a State Government funded program and held two seminars on the various

aspects of asbestos.. Despite the huge amount of asbestos material on the island (most dwellings all through the 50's and 60's were built of asbestos fibre reinforced concrete sheeting), the seminars were not well attended. Some of the reason may have been the lack of available time to publicise the seminars suitably, although notices were placed in the local paper and on notice boards and in shop windows all over the island.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

No air quality monitoring is carried out on Kangaroo Island as there is not a lot of traffic, no heavy industry and the usual complaints about air quality generally stem from incorrectly adjusted wood-heaters. There are a number of complaints received each year however about the dust from the unsealed roads during the dryer months.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

The local vineyards are tending to use netting more these days to deter birds, rather than the gas guns of yesteryear and the only noise issues are usually those of a personal nature from vehicles etc, and these are dealt with by the local Police.

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

Council's two General Inspectors inspect all recreation facilities during their normal traversing of the island. In addition, the EHO and other Council staff involved with cleaning Public Toilets etc. keep an eye on things.

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

Despite this being an issue continually raised by the EHO, no specific proactive action had been taken by Council in the way of Emergency Planning. However, there are several Council staff on the local Zone Emergency Committee and periodical training is undertaken to cover such issues as emergencies at the airport.

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

No count has been kept of the number of development applications assessed by the EHO. However, the previous Planner did not refer many of the applications to the EHO that should have been referred, and this was a continuing source of annoyance. The current staff in Development Services are very good and assistance is usually sought from the EHO at appropriate times. It has been quite frustrating in the past to find out about a Bed & Breakfast operation that has been given the go ahead without reference to the EHO as it is too late after the event to require the installation of a hand basin.

7.11 Other

