

City of Onkaparinga

PO Box 1
Noarlunga Centre SA 5168
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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)
Stephen Carroll	Associate Diploma	24	27/05/90
Karin Prince	Bachelor of Environmental Health	7	30/05/04
John Gilbert	Associate Diploma	30	02/07/73
Daniel Galbraith	Bachelor of Environmental Health	7.5	01/09/03

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)
Nicole Moore	Bachelor of Environmental Health	30.4	13.5	03/05/96
Karen Bennink	" "	30.4	1	01/07/98
Sarah Mitchell	" "	19	6	04/10/05
Tim Woods	" "	15.2	14.5	01/03/95
Chris Congdon	" "	19	2	25/06/09

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.	

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	1.51 (FTE)
Administration	0.5
Other (please specify)	1 (Health Administration)

1.2 Staff Training

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

Environmental Health Australia 31st State Conference

This years EHA state conference was held in one of the Adelaide Hill's most famous towns, Hahndorf. The conference theme, "Putting Environmental Health Through the Mill, Local Actions With Global Impacts" was intended to stimulate thought and conversation about the current global situation and the impact it may have on our role as Environmental Health practitioners at a local level.

Some of the topics covered by speakers presenting at the conference included:

- Experiences of an EHO in the Royal Australian Air Force
- Effects of heatwaves on Public Health
- Eye Safety in Rural Villages of Bangladesh
- Healthy Body Art for Young People

Local Government Management Association Leadership Challenge

The LGMA Management Challenge is a professional development activity undertaken annually by Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) for local government staff across Australia and New Zealand. The challenge itself is a one day leadership, team and management skill development program. The teams come together to a pre-determined venue and are given a number of specific business related tasks and activities to complete. Each challenge team is assessed using the developed criteria and the assessment includes elements of the teams output (what it produces) and the process by which the team operates to gain that output.

New Legionella Regulations Training Day

The Department of Health ran a Legionella Education Session that coincided with the release of the *Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008*. The session included information about Legionella, the legislation, cooling towers and water treatment, warm water systems and an overview of the requirements for inspections and audits.

Infection Control Seminar

This workshop was specifically designed to meet the needs of those responsible for ensuring certain levels of hygiene are being maintained in skin penetration premises and for those conducting disease notification investigations into such procedures. The workshop was developed with funding through SafeWork SA and was developed collaboratively by the SA Department of Health, Infection Control specialists, sterilising companies and representatives from the Tattooing and Body Piercing industry. Topic covered on the day included:

- Blood borne viruses
- Infections associated with skin penetration procedures
- Sterilisation and maintenance of autoclaves
- Details of an investigation into an outbreak of *Mycobacterium chelonae* associated with a skin penetration procedure

ETA Wastewater Training Day

This practical training day was organised for the installation of an Evapo Transpiration Absorption (ETA) bed as per AS1547. The day utilised the knowledge of a range of experts and academics within the field. Officers and Environmental Health students gained an in-depth understanding of a greenhouse positive, chemical free system that is available for any plumber/drain-layer to install and does not have proprietary ownership. The aim was to improve EHO's knowledge in a broader range of systems available for installation within their Council areas. These systems are particularly important where a person does not want the ongoing service costs associated with an aerobic system as well as the public health issues associated with surface irrigated effluent.

Mental Health First Aid

This course gave an overview about what Mental Health problems are, how to recognise someone suffering through a mental health issue and how to approach and deal with someone suffering with a mental health problem.

Pool Operator Training

The course was designed to give EHO's and pool operators an understanding of the Regulations and SAHC codes pertaining to swimming pools and spas. It also aimed to provide EHO's with an understanding of the duties and responsibilities of competent pool operators.

Local Government - an Introduction

This session was aimed at new employees to councils and gave them some background information about how local governments work and the different hierarchy's involved within each local council.

Clandestine Drug Laboratories Training Day

The purpose of this training was to provide Environmental Health Officers with the knowledge and skills to enable them to assess drug laboratories, as well as provide an understanding of the involvement of other agencies in the remediation process.

Immunisation Seminar

The immunisation nurses attend a Country seminar every year run by the South Australian Immunisation Network. This years seminar was held in Port Augusta and had various guest speakers talking about new and upcoming immunisation issues.

Environmental Health Australia Award for Excellence in Environmental Health Management

This award was given to the City of Onkaparinga's Environmental Health Team for their continued involvement with the following programs:

- Food Safety Information Sessions
- Healthy Heads head lice program
- Immunisation programs
- Healthy Body Art – Skin Penetration Education Program
- Waste Water System Training Days
- Sustainable Waste Water Management
- Development of the interagency hoarding team in the Southern Area
- Water Proofing the South

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	66	1	
17	Control of offensive activities	-		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	14		
19	Private thoroughfare	-		
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	-		
21	Pollution of water	-		
22	Closure of water supplies	-		
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders		3	
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 causes of insanitary conditions within the council area are those of vermin infestation, hoarded materials including building materials, household rubbish, domestic waste, clothing and paper. Mosquito breeding in both private property and council/state government owned land continues to cause potential public health risks. Faulty onsite waste control systems continue to present significant challenges to council and Environmental Health Officers. The incidences of hoarding appear to be on an upward trend with a number of situations requiring input from various agencies to attempt to rectify the problems.

Certain insanitary conditions relate to the operation of public swimming pools and the skills and knowledge of the operator. It is felt that all operators of public swimming/spa pools should have an appropriate qualification or level of training that can be demonstrated through the effective management of pool water quality.

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

By far the majority of properties implicated in insanitary conditions are properties under the care and control of Housing SA. To a lesser extent, rental and privately owned properties present problems on occasions. The Environmental Health Officers at the City of Onkaparinga work closely with Housing SA staff when dealing with insanitary housing. Recently, a meeting was held with staff from both organisations to discuss issues relating to insanitary housing and how best to work together when dealing with these houses. All of the current legislation was discussed and each

department detailed exactly how each could be of assistance to the other. The meeting was also a “meet and greet” session, enabling Officers to get to know one another, which helps immensely when dealing with these issues.

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

It is becoming increasingly evident that the issue of mental illness is a major impediment to solving insanitary conditions. Premises which have been brought to the attention of council due to odours, unsightliness, noise or other factors quite often reveal deeper problems with the occupants. Such contributing factors may well be mental illness, deprivation of adequate finances and suspicion of authority resulting in difficulties of authorised officers to rectify certain situations. Council Officers work closely with mental health organisations and other community based organisations, trying to provide assistance to the occupants of these houses.

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.

The ineffective disposal of wastewater from failing onsite wastewater disposal systems continues to present problems. Council’s completed survey relating to the sewerage of Sellicks Beach has been presented to the state government with a view to obtaining funding for the required infrastructure to help alleviate these problems. To date, the council understands that SA water are in the design stages for the sewer construction of the area.

Continued complaints concerning dog and cat management, odours, European wasps and bees, wood heater smoke nuisance are dealt with as required.

The council officers maintain a liaison with officers from the Environment Protection Authority in the monitoring and managing of certain offensive activities, although roles are still unclear in relation to certain types of complaints. The council, however, does liaise with the Environment Protection Authority in emergency situations.

PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL 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 introduction of Swine Flu to South Australia meant that the City of Onkaparinga community were wanting more information from their local Council. A number of information sessions were conducted for community groups, on a request basis. Information used within the presentation was gathered from the Department of Health Swine flu web site and media releases were used to make sure the presentation was kept up-to-date with the current situation.

During the year, it was discovered that there were a number of Bed and Breakfast establishments within the area that have spas and pools. A project was established to determine the exact number and location of B&B's containing pools and/or spas. Details of the pools and spas were then put onto the council's data base. As a result, next year's annual report will reflect an increase in the number of these.

It was also brought to the council's attention, that there are a number of alternative therapists working within the community that perform skin penetration procedures. A questionnaire was developed to determine which therapists were performing skin penetration and these premises have been added to our inspection list for the coming year.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Swine flu was a huge issue in the media at the start of 2009. Our actions in regards to dealing with Swine flu, resulted from requests from the community as a result of media articles and television shows. The Department of Health also kept councils up-to-date with media releases emailed to officers regularly. City of Onkaparinga staff were also present at a number of education sessions, run by Environmental Health Officers. Posters about hand washing were placed in all staff toilets, including all libraries and community centres. Hand sanitisers were introduced to all customer service staff, outside staff and library staff. The council's store room also stocked bottles of hand sanitisers for staff that wished to have some on their desk at all times. The Human Resources section of council also updated procedures for staff returning to work from affected areas as well as those suffering from swine flu. A group of council staff were also trained to prepare for future pandemics and develop a Pandemic Action Plan.

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

Due to Swine flu being of high interest within the media, council employees and management were keen to implement changes within the workplace to try and prevent the spread of the disease within the council.

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).

New Arrivals Refugee Immunisation

In collaboration with the Department of Health, the council has commenced a New Arrivals Refugee Immunisation clinic to immunise refugees and their families. With funding from the Department of Health, the council is able to offer support to non-English speaking refugees with an interpreter.

The service has been advertised through general practitioners in the southern area as well as through community groups and the council community directory. The council has also conducted a number of ad hoc clinics to cater for the needs of twenty families in the region, including within the City of Marion.

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	10	11			11
Spa	11	13			13
Hydrotherapy	12	19	2	2	21
Waterslide	-				
Other	-				
Total	33	43			45

City of Onkaparinga vs Body Work Shop

The City of Onkaparinga was recently successful in the prosecution of the Body Work Shop Fitness Centre at Old Reynella. This prosecution was a result of an ongoing legal case that was conducted by Wallmans Lawyers on behalf of the City of Onkaparinga against the Body Work Shop. The prosecution was based around the fact that the proprietor originally failed to comply with a section 15 Insanitary Conditions Notice and subsequent expiation notices that were issued for a variety of legislative non compliances.

It is now well documented that the original court case conducted in April 2007 at the Magistrates Court resulted in a decision against the City of Onkaparinga based on a number of misinterpretations of the offences by the original Magistrate. These interpretations were premised around a number of issues including the validity of the Section 15 Notice, the authorisation of the person serving the notice, inadequate evidence to suggest a spa pool was located on the premises and the need for certified Codes of Practice to be produced as evidence.

Due to the incomprehensible nature of the decision an appeal was lodged on 9 August 2007 to the Supreme Court of South Australia based on the fact that the Learned Magistrate erred in his findings on all counts. The findings of the appeal were handed down on 18 April 2008 and the Justice of the Supreme Court allowed the appeal of all counts and the complaint was remitted for rehearing before a differently constituted Magistrates Court.

A pre trial conference was arranged based on the findings of the Supreme Court and with the view to negotiate a settlement to this matter. On the 8 August 2008 the defendant and owner of the Body Work Shop pleaded guilty to seven counts of not complying with the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 and the Public and Environmental Health Regulations. The Magistrate determined a penalty of \$10,000 to be paid to the Council and a fine of \$1,000 plus victims of crime levies associated with each conviction.

The Magistrate concluded his finding with the following comments:

“Finally I wish to say something about the facts, namely that any premises that poses a risk to health should clearly understand that there are strict requirements to ensure that places are kept in a sanitary manner. Those insanitary premises have the potential to pose risk to health. Those premises are to be contrasted with that involved in the preparation of food. I wish to make clear that there has been a conviction in relation to these matters. That conviction in my view is an appropriate penalty. A conviction is very much a real pentacle to act, not only as a personal deterrent but in regulatory offences such as these it is in my view entirely appropriate that convictions be recorded.”

It is the understanding that these convictions are the first to be administered under the provision of the Public and Environmental Health Act. In terms of the future, the City of Onkaparinga will continue to monitor the Body Work Shops performance in relation to the convictions issued to ensure an appropriate level of hygiene is maintained at the premises.

In March 2009, the Body Workshop closed down and no longer operates within this council area.

A self audit form was sent to approximately 60 Bed and Breakfast establishments in the area in July 2008. These self audits were to determine which B & B premises had a swimming pool and/or spa available for use by guests. Unfortunately, there was a poor response rate by the B & B owners and many of them believed that their pool was not a “public pool/spa,” even though we supplied them with the definition. As a consequence to these audits, we have started a B & B project to find and inspect pools located at these premises. The details of this project will be reported on within the next P&EH Act report. This project will also increase the amount of swimming pools and spa pools within our Council area next year.

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	55	4			4
Warm Water System	8				
Other					
Total	63	4			4

The council is currently in the process of setting up a new computer program to account for the new legionella regulations. The majority of our cooling towers have registered with us, using the new registration form set up in accordance with the regulations, but have yet to be

entered onto our data base. The council has decided to adopt a policy for all Cooling Towers to use a third party auditor.

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	Certificate of Compliance
Septic Tank	61	124	6	7
Aerobic System	49	157	14	8
STEDS	75	250	2	54
Bluewater	71	139		19
Eco Village	10	14		1
Sand Filter	2	9		1
Biolytx	1	2		1
Total	269	695	22	91

The council has seven Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS – formerly STEDS) that it maintains within its area, at the following suburbs:

- Clarendon
- McLaren Flat
- McLaren Vale
- Willunga
- Maslins Beach
- Sellicks Beach (a small portion)
- Morphett Vale (a small portion)

Final inspections of CWMS connections to ensure that they comply with the Standards are seen to be extremely important because of council's liability should anything go wrong.

The Bluewater Waste Water System is council owned infrastructure and is located at Sellicks Beach. The system operates like a standard sewerage system and therefore properties within this estate do not have septic tanks. Despite this, council Environmental Health Officers approve all applications and conduct underfloor and drainage inspections. In this sub-division, a recycled waste water system also exists, where residents can use the recycled water to irrigate their gardens and/or use it for flushing their toilets.

The Eco Village is a small sub-division located at Aldinga. Within this sub-division, there is a privately owned sewerage system which is run by the community. Council's Environmental Health Officers approve all applications and conduct underfloor and drainage inspections. The waste water from the Eco Village is recycled and placed onto a tree lot at the rear of the sub-division. It is not re-used by residents, as the quality of the recycled water is not as high a quality as that in the Bluewater sub-division.

Trade waste function is part of the Public and Environmental Health Act (Waste Control Regulations) EHO's responsibility to enforce. There are approximately 80 trade waste facilities in the non-sewered area of the council that EHO's monitor on a regular basis.

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	384
Number of School Clinics	45
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	4
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	66
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	4
Number of Kindergarten visits	11
NARI clinics	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>519</i>

4.5 **Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

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

Disease	Total no. cases
Arbovirus	9
Campylobacter	211
Cryptosporidiosis	15
Haemophilus influenzae	1
Hepatitis A	3
Hydatid Disease	1
Influenza	107
Listeria	1
Malaria	1
Meningococcal	1
Mumps	1
Pertussis	258
Pneumococcal	16
Rotavirus	40
Rubella	1
Salmonella	78
Shigella	2
STEC/HUS/TTP	4
Suspected Food Poisoning	2
Varicella virus	156
Yersinia	1

All disease statistics are checked as they come into our office. If the case has stated a source of the disease, this is usually followed up by an EHO with a phone call to the case and then an inspection of the relevant food premises/swimming pool is conducted if required.

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	8	8	1	1	9
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	125				
Other					
Total	133	8	1	1	9

Any Additional Comments ?

The council utilises a self audit system for the assessment of hairdressing establishments. Those that do not respond within a given time frame are followed up with an inspection. The audit forms are sent out on an annual basis and are reviewed by Environmental Health Officers. Assessment is then based on the information and risk associated with the audit results.

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	7	Y
Rodents	51	Y
Head Lice	3	Y
Flies		
Pigeons		
Scabies	1	
Cockroaches		
Bees	53	Y
European Wasps	43	Y
Other (please describe)		

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

The council has maintained its involvement in mosquito management throughout the area. Sites that have been identified as potential problem areas are monitored on a regular basis when required. Pamphlets and posters outlining methods of mosquito control are available throughout various council establishments including libraries and offices as requested by the Department of Health. Trapping, identification and recommended strategies for control have been carried out on private property as the result of complaints and queries put to environmental health staff.

Contract services are utilised for the control of bee hives on council property and for the eradication of European wasp nests. Within the year, council's contractors destroyed in excess of 550 European Wasp nests in the region. 84 bee hives were destroyed on council owned land, bee hives on private property are deemed the responsibility of the property owner unless there is a clear danger to the public.

The council runs a "Healthy Heads" head lice program, which aims to control the incidence of head lice within the community. Staff are available to go to schools and conduct whole of school head lice checks, at the request of schools. The schools are charged a fee for this service depending on the number of students at the school. Education sessions are also conducted on a request basis. These sessions aim to educate students, staff and families about head lice treatment and prevention, as well as clear-up the myths associated with head lice.

The council deals with rat complaints in the area by conducting inspections and performing letter drops in the surrounding areas. Rat bait is also available to residents from all three council offices.

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

The City of Onkaparinga has 5 dog boarding kennels and 3 cat boarding places. (Catteries are only registered with Council if they have dog kennels attached as per the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995*). There are 30 dog breeders registered with Council, including those that breed Greyhound dogs. All of the breeders registered are those that breed dogs as a business, and not the back-yarder whose animal "accidentally" becomes pregnant.

There is only one petting zoo within the council, and this is monitored from a public health perspective as well as to ensure the health and well being of the animals.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

At the City of Onkaparinga, a lot of the Pandemic flu preparation has been for the protection of its staff and not for the community. However, a number of information sessions for community groups were run by EHO's upon request. Some of the work conducted at the council includes:

- Establishing a working group to produce a Business Continuity Plan for a Pandemic within the council
- Presenting information sessions for all staff (by EHO's)
- Introducing hand sanitiser gel to all staff dealing with customers, especially library staff and customer service staff (it is now readily available in the stationary store as well as antiseptic wipes for phones etc)
- Reviewing the councils Infectious Diseases Work Procedure to include a policy for staff returning to work from holidays in Melbourne/overseas etc
- Providing information sessions to community groups on a request basis

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?

YES

IF NO
YES / NO

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

IF YES

Date commenced 1st July 1998

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

YES (If Yes, go to next item)

While the City of Onkaparinga has a Public and Environmental Health Management Plan, it is not current. The Council has adopted the 2028 Corporate Annual Business Plan and this has the more relevant and up-to-date information relating to public health included within it.

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.

Healthy Heads Program

As a part of the Environmental Health Team's ongoing head lice program, 21 visits to various schools were done to check the entire student population for head lice. These visits were in response to the school's request for assistance in head lice control. The object of the program was to demonstrate that through controlled monitoring, screening and education, the incidence of head lice could be greatly reduced. It is evident through the program evaluation that there has been an increased awareness of the problem of head lice and that the education aspect has resulted in a decrease in the incidence of head lice among primary school children.

Schools that were visited include:

- Willunga Primary School
- Christies Beach Primary School
- Moana Primary School
- O'Sullivan Beach Primary School
- Aldinga Beach Primary School

- Christie Downs Primary School
- Noarlunga Downs Primary School

In addition to this school program, the Environmental Health Team has been assisting parents and caregivers in extreme situations where they can no longer control head lice and need extra support to eliminate the problem. These families are referred to council through school staff. The process involves an EHO meeting with the family, checking their treatment procedures and offering alternative treatments and suggestions to deal with the head lice issue. EHO's offer their support and aim to educate the parents so that they can deal with further head lice outbreaks themselves. This part of the program has proved hugely successful in reducing the incidence of head lice among these problem families.

Healthy Body Art Program

As the trend for tattoos and body piercing increases within the community, council considers it important for young people to know about the dangers of unhygienic piercing and tattooing and the fact that this can lead to infections, injury and the transfer of diseases such as Hepatitis B.

The City of Onkaparinga are continuing with the innovative "Healthy Body Art" education program, which was developed in 2007, with the aid of the Southern Primary Health, Noarlunga.

The program was delivered to 8 schools within the council area –educating over 300 students in the community. Schools that were involved with the program are:

- Moana Primary School
- Flaxmill Primary School
- Noarlunga Primary School
- O'Sullivan Beach Primary School
- McLaren Vale Primary School
- Hackham West Primary School
- Chrisites Beach Primary School

The City of Onkaparinga in no way condones the piercing of children. However, the information is designed to get children talking with their parents about the health issues involved with piercing. If they decide to get a piercing, it is essential that they be well informed in order to make safe and healthy choices.

The Healthy Body Art project expanded its role during 2008-2009. After winning a grant from SafeWork SA, the project committee teamed up with the Department of Health and put on a number of Infection Control workshops for the skin penetration industry. There were two workshops specific for Body Piercers and three workshops for the tattooists. A total of 50 body piercers and 70 tattooists attended the workshops. A workshop only for Environmental Health Officers was also run and attended by 25 EHO's from various councils across the state. Evaluation of the workshops showed that people were interested and very keen to update their knowledge. Nearly all said that they were keen to attend future workshops if the opportunity arose.

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)

The City of Onkaparinga has begun to keep a register of premises using rain water as their main supply of drinking water. This is in preparation for the new South Australian Safe Drinking Water Bill, to be introduced next year.

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

The Onkaparinga Water Management Board commenced a program in 1999 to monitor the water quality of rivers and creeks within the catchment area, including those within the City of Onkaparinga. A total of 31 sites are analysed for heavy metals, turbidity, salinity, conductivity, pH levels, nutrients and faecal coliforms.

In addition to this testing, the Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network undertakes water quality monitoring through a network of community groups and schools over 150 sites within the area.

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

Period	08/09
Domestic Collections	3,576,636
Domestic Tonnages	33,314
Recycling Collections	1,493,277
Recycling Tonnages	12,681
Green Waste Collections	486,511
Green Waste Tonnages	10,598
Hard Waste Collections	13,578
Hard Waste Tonnages	1,192
Hard Waste Recycling	956

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

There are a large number of contaminated or potentially contaminated sites within the council area. These include local tips and other sites previously used in an industrial capacity many years ago. There have been 43 Council owned contaminated sites including former landfill sites in Kangarilla, Port Noarlunga and Maslin Beach. Typically these were established, operated and closed without the level of environmental understanding we have today.

The council continues to take a lead in the management of this issue. The council has adopted a procedure to register and manage council owned contaminated land and has dedicated \$10 million over the next 10 years for this purpose. The council is also working with highly regarded environmental consultants to help manage the problem with the best interests of the community and environment in mind.

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

The council has produced an asbestos information kit for homeowners which is available free of charge. The kit provides information on removal of asbestos from the home as well as guidelines on transport and disposal. It also provides a list of asbestos removal license holders and further information relating to home renovators and mechanics.

The council also maintains an Asbestos Building register, detailing council owned properties that contain asbestos. Warning notices then identify all areas or workplaces that contain asbestos.

As a part of the councils OHW & S Procedures, a MSDS register is continually updated and maintained, relevant to all work areas. These registers detail all precautions required to be followed when using particular chemicals as well as the actions needed in emergency situations.

A Safe Work Procedure for the collection and disposal of syringes in the street/reserves has been established to ensure that syringes found in the area are collected in a safe manner, without putting staff at risk. An emergency procedure for needle stick injuries has also been established, again to try and further prevent the spread of diseases to staff from used syringes.

The City of Onkaparinga also receive used syringes from the residents who bring them into the front counter of the Council offices. Staff will only accept syringes if they are in a suitable container and are advised to place it in the medical bin for disposal as soon as possible.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Council does not carry out air quality monitoring, however 33 complaints were received about air quality/odours in the area. A lot of these complaints arose from septic tanks failing or not working properly, pets in backyards, industrial businesses in Lonsdale and wood heater smoke.

When dealing with complaints in Lonsdale, the councils EHO's work closely with the EPA, who are the relevant authority to deal with odours in the industrial section of the council.

Twenty two complaints were received regarding smoke from wood heaters. At the City of Onkaparinga, officers educate the owners of the wood heaters on the correct usage and give out brochures and a DVD for owners to read in their own time. If further complaints are received, officers seek the assistance of both the EPA and the Wood Heater Association.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Council does not carry out noise monitoring

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

Parks Maintenance looks after 256 sites that have playgrounds built on them. These sites consist of small playgrounds with only one or two pieces of equipment, up to large playgrounds such as the wooden adventure playground at Port Noarlunga. These sites are inspected on a regular basis, such as:

- High volume sites (10 sites) are inspected weekly by accredited staff
- Remainder are inspected every 8 weeks by accredited staff
- All playground sites are also checked visually by our reserve maintenance staff every 3 weeks when they maintain the reserve
- A random audit is also conducted on a sample of our playgrounds twice a year by an external consultant

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

The City of Onkaparinga is currently involved in a number of Emergency Management strategies within the area. These include:

- Working towards providing tracks to previously inaccessible areas through bushland to protect these valuable assets from fires and weeds etc.
- Managing illegal use of roads by providing traffic barriers. For example, blocking road access from hoon drivers
- Implementing security cameras in remote locations to record activities in environmentally sensitive areas. The cameras record the people traffic in fire risk areas to try and catch anyone lighting fires on fire ban days. The cameras are also used to record illegal dumping of rubbish in remote areas. Occasionally the cameras are housed in bird boxes, recording the habits of endangered birds.
- Provide 2000 burning permits per year within the Council area. Officers inspect at least 50% of the applications for permits to ensure there is no environmental threats such as burning plastics, CCA posts etc.
- Fire protection talks are also conducted to individual land owners in fire risk areas

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

Environmental Health Officers assessed a total of 757 applications. These assessments include a desk top audit of the application and a site visit to ensure that the application complies with the *Public and Environmental Health Act, 1987* as well as the *Food Act, 2001*.

7.11 Other

8. OTHER

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)

Date this report was / is to be presented to Council / /2009

This report is to be submitted by 30th September 2009 in soft copy emailed to:

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.