

Renmark Paringa Council

61 Eighteenth Street Renmark
PO Box 730
Ph:8580 3000

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)

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)
Katina Nikas	Assoc Dip Env Hlth	35	15 years	1994

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
Deirdre Reiman	Assoc Dip Env Hlth	8 days per year	15 years	2007

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	2 casual employment 2 contract
Administration	
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.

Risk Management Training – Module 2 of Diploma of Business (Quality Auditing)
Murray Mallee Local Government Inspectorial Group Meeting
Work Life Balance Training
1st Aid Training
Legionella Regulations Education Session
Group Auditor Discussion
Emergency Management Local Recovery Seminar

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	1		
17	Control of offensive activities	5		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place			
19	Private thoroughfare			
20	Provision of adequate sanitation			
21	Pollution of water	1		
22	Closure of water supplies			
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders		9	
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).

Accumulation of domestic refuse

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

Rental Property

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

No impediments

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.

Offensive odours associated with intensive animal keeping, keeping of poultry, accumulation of dog faeces.

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 continued drought has had a significant impact of the whole of the Riverland Region. The restriction of irrigation water has forced many people to evaluate their ability to finance irrigating their land with an additional impact on their ability to do so, caused by reduced commodity prices. As a result some are choosing to not irrigate and leaving crops to die. This can potentially result in increased number of complaints relating to dust issues and burning of dead trees/vines on horticultural premises.

Some irrigators are looking at other forms of income that can be derived from the land and in some cases are considering sheep and cattle operations. There is obviously a potential environmental health impact if animal waste is not suitably managed, potential for ongoing site contamination and also land degradation.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

- Complaint
- Historic Data
- Incidence of disease

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

Issues are prioritised based on legislative requirements and risk to public health

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).

Nil

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	11	8	0	0	8
Spa	1	0	0	0	0
Hydrotherapy					
Waterslide					
Other					
Total	12	8	0	0	8

Any Additional Comments?

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	9	1	0	0	1
Warm Water System	16 separate systems located at one premises	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25	1	0	0	1

Any Additional Comments?

During October and November 2008 the three Riverland councils placed adverts in the local newspapers informing owners of HRMWS of their requirements under the Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations.

Information packs and registration forms were sent out to all known and suspected HRMWS. Council is still waiting on DECS to confirm whether HRMWS are located in schools, kindergartens and childcare centres.

With the introduction of the new legislation Council opted to not undertake the annual inspection of these systems and has advised owners of the need for an independent 3rd party to undertake this work.

During the reporting period Council was advised of 3 high legionella counts in a warm water system. Relevant advice was given to the owner of the system regarding appropriate decontamination etc. Communication with the owner indicated that there was a very poor understanding at the facility of the requirements of the Regulations and Standard. An intensive education session was held with relevant people at the facility to ensure that they had a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of their 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	51	91	1
Aerobic System	5	5	0
Other (Biolytix)	7	5	0
Total	63	101	1

Any Additional Comments ?

In January 2009, SA Health provided Councils with Guidelines in relation to the assessment of the Biolytix systems. Parts of this information was forwarded to builders and plumbers with the aim at increasing their knowledge of the specific issues that need to be addressed when lodging applications for the installation of these types of systems.

Council focuses on existing septic tanks through the receipt of desludging reports from Council's septic tank desludging Contractor. If a report identifies a deficiency with the tank, correspondence is sent to the owner of the system advising of the deficiency. During the reporting period a total of 149 letters were sent.

During the reporting period, it was identified that 4 aerobic waste water treatment systems had been installed without the prior approval of Council. The owners of the systems were advised of this and requested to provide Council with various information regarding their systems including Certification from the installer.

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	12
Number of School Clinics	3
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	1
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	0
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	0
Total	16

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

CDCB advised Council of a gastro cluster at an Aged Care Facility. Information was given to the facility in relation to appropriate personal hygiene, exclusion of staff showing symptoms etc. At this time no new cases had arisen. A faecal sample sent for analysis indicated no growth and it appeared that the cases were all viral.

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	2	0	0	0	0
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	12	0	0	0	0
Other					
Total	14	0	0	0	0

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	1	Y
Rodents		
Head Lice		
Flies		
Pigeons		
Scabies		
Cockroaches		
Bees		
European Wasps		
Other (please describe)		

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

Generally the Control Program has not changed except during this reporting period Council was required to find a suitably qualified person to undertake mosquito control activities. As a result, the three Riverland Councils advertised for expressions of interest for such a person. During this mosquito season the Contractor was requested to undertake treatment of a lagoon that had been artificially flooded. Council had not been given an opportunity to treat the area prior to the flooding taking place and as a result, the task of controlling mosquito larvae was far more difficult.

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

Five complaints were received regarding animal keeping facilities (domestic animals and intensive animal keeping) due to odours. These issues are dealt with on a reactive basis and routine monitoring is not undertaken.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Council's Business Continuity Plan is currently under review with the inclusion of the Pandemic Plan.

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 / NO

IF NO

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

YES / 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.

Preliminary work had commenced on a Public and Environmental Health Management Plan. A review of Council's Strategic Plan was undertaken & it was determined that a separate plan was not required as our Strategic Plan made reference to broad public and environmental health issues.

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.

Since March 2006, Council's EHO has been actively involved in the Riverland Arbovirus Prevention Working Group (RAPWG). As the majority of the Groups objectives had been met prior to June 2008, the group now meets on an as needs basis. The group last meet in November 2008 to decide how to best utilise the suite of health promotion resources previously developed by RAPWG for this mosquito season.

The group decided that Community Service Announcements were to be played on the local ABC radio station; adverts would be placed in the three Riverland papers and in the Riverland Visitors Guide.

RAPWG decided that the fruit fly stop at Yamba would be a good place to distribute Fight the Bite pamphlets. PIRSA supported the idea and 4,000 pamphlets were delivered for distribution at Yamba and Pinnaroo.

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 change since previous report

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

No change since previous report

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

A Regional Waste Management Committee has been formed as a result of the EPA requiring that all landfills be fully compliant with requirements by July 2010. This effectively means that all landfills within the Riverland Region will need to be fully engineered. A joint tender is currently under consideration but all proposals are much more expensive than anticipated. Therefore further investigations will be required before any decisions are made and may include the consideration of one fully engineered landfill site for the Region.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

No change since last report

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

No change since last report

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

No change since last report

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

No change since last report

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

Council has a Risk Management program and schedule in place for inspections, audits and risk assessments of our recreation facilities. This is monitored and controlled via our OHS&W Committee and Meetings.

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

Council has an Emergency Disaster Response Procedure and a Business Continuity Plan in place. The Business Continuity Plan is currently under review with the inclusion of the Pandemic Plan.

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

The exact number of Development Applications assessed by the EHO is unknown. All land divisions are referred to the EHO for comment. Other Development Applications are referred to the EHO if Council's Town Planner identifies public and environmental health as being an issue.

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 presented to Council

22 / 09 /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.