



## Tatiara District 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)
Nil			

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)
Nil				

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
Nil				

<b>Contracted non-employee environmental health officers (30 June 2009)</b>				
<b>Full name</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>Average contracted hours worked per week</b>	<b>EHO experience (years/months)</b>	<b>Contract start/finish dates</b>
Chris Congdon	BEnvHlth, DipBus	10	2 years	June – December 2009

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

<b>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)</b>	
Immunisation Nurses	1
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.*

During the 2008/09 financial year Council's contract Environmental Health Officer attended numerous training days, usually facilitated by SA Health and or Environmental Health Australia.

Council's Environmental Health Officer also participates in the continued professional development program administered by Environmental Health Australia.



## 2. 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	5	Not required	
17	Control of offensive activities	1	Not required	
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	0		
19	Private thoroughfare	0		
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	1	Not required	
21	Pollution of water	0		
22	Closure of water supplies	0		
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	0		
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	0		

### 2.1 ***Monitoring and management of Insanitary Conditions***

- 2.1.1 Please briefly describe the chief causes of insanitary conditions reported (e.g. hoarded materials, pest infestation).

The suspected but not confirmed primary reasons for the cause of the majority of insanitary conditions are person's not able to cope with day-to-day life. Obsessive hoarding of material most people would view as garbage was the primary reason for managing such conditions.

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

Rental properties.

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

Apparent unawareness that such conditions have the potential to negatively impact the health of those living and visiting the dwelling.

## 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.

Asbestos removal work has been carried out around the Council area, allegedly without concern for public health & safety. Investigations have proved challenging as demolition work had ceased; leaving it hard to substantiate resident's claims. However, once aware of concerns the Environmental Health Officer pursues those involved and provides them with information regarding safe and proper disposal as well as reminding them of their obligations to control the emission of asbestos fibres.

## 3 **PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIROMENTAL 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***

#### Environmental Health Officers

As reported in previous annual reports, Tatiara District Council has experienced the negative impact regarding the shortfall of suitable qualified Officers. To address this, the Council has sought to look outside the square and appoint a qualified Environmental Health Officer on a contract basis.

#### Effluent Disposal

As is widely known, wastewater has the potential to cause a variety of illness to those exposed. Due to many areas of the Tatiara being serviced by either CWMS or on-site disposal, great care is taken when assessing and furthermore inspecting such applications to ensure compliance with the relevant Code.



### 3.2 ***Prioritisation process***

- 3.2.1 How was Council made aware of these priority issues (e.g. investigation, research, complaint)?

Through appropriate assessment and investigation.

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

Any issue that can be envisaged to relate in some manner to environmental health, no matter how small it may seem at first, is always forwarded to the Environmental Health Officer for assessment.

**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).**

Within the Tatiara there are a number of Council supported community volunteer groups who actively work along side vulnerable groups within our community. One of such seeks to foster, encourage and promote cultural diversity within the Tatiara region. It also provides advice and consultancy to other service providers to facilitate the participation of new residents, refugees, migrants and new and emerging communities in the social, cultural and economic life of Australia and the Tatiara.

## 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, e.g. 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	6	6	1	1	7
Spa					
Hydrotherapy					
Waterslide					
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

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, e.g. 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	9	0	0	9
Warm Water System	3	3	0	0	3
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>			<b>12</b>

Any Additional Comments?

In line with Environmental Health Australia's position, Tatiara District Council has embraced the new Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations and anticipates inspecting the above registered HRMWS using the Department of Health inspection proforma to maintain and up-skill local government Environmental Health Officers.

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

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints
Septic Tank	24	24	
Aerobic System	2	2	
Other (name)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>

Any Additional Comments?

#### 4.4 **Immunisation programs - See Appendix 1a and 1b for details**

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	<i>See appendix 1</i>
Number of School Clinics	<i>See appendix 1</i>
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	2
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	<i>See appendix 1</i>
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	<i>See appendix 1</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>

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

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

The report for the year 2007-08 is appenixed.

Where notification is received suggesting a possible causation to factors attributable to personal hygiene or other environmental health factors (eg contaminated water etc), the Environmental Health Officer seeks to respond and investigate to ensure known risk factors specific to any given illness are assessed and discussed.



**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					
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	9	3	0	0	3
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

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	0	
Rodents	1	Y
Head Lice	0	
Flies	0	
Pigeons	0	
Scabies	0	
Cockroaches	3	Y
Bees	0	
European Wasps	0	
Other (please describe)	0	

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

Both the above complaints were dealt with through the Food Act 2001.

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

The Tatiara District Council is a very large council area dedicated to primary production. This includes extensive intensive animal keeping which include piggeries and feedlots. The amount of cattle and sheep feedlots increased during the drought. The majority of piggeries in the district are licensed by the EPA due to being in a Water Protection Area and or size of the facility. High Schools in the area maintain commercial levels of livestock as a matter of course. There are two commercial dog kennels in the district, both located in the Primary Industry area.

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

The Tatiara District Council engages a medical consultant to offer flu vaccinations throughout the course of the flu season.

**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.*

**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 provides a regular newsletter to ratepayers as well as items in the local newspaper. This is not dedicated specifically to promote public health issues but regularly contains information that fulfils this criterion.
- The new bin system which was implemented two years ago continues to be extremely successful especially with the increase in recyclable waste being collected and the reduction of waste going to landfill.
- Council also promotes the home composting of green waste by encouraging the use of compost bins and/or worm farms.

## **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 (e.g. rainwater tanks, bores)**

The majority of residential properties are supplied with potable water from SA Water. However, it is known a large proportion of the population prefer to drink from their own rainwater tanks. Procedures are in place to assist with residential concerns regarding potable water, be that supplied or from the home rainwater tank.

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

There are separate and non-connected areas of potable water supplies in the Tatiara District Council. The townships of Bordertown, Keith and a portion of Padthaway are serviced by a potable water supply.

The water supply in Wolseley is non-potable and supplied from Council owned bores.

The other towns are supplied by reticulation from local bores and rainwater. The town of Keith is totally reliant on River Murray water from Tailem Bend, 130kms away.

Council has monitoring bores at the Bordertown Landfill site as the site is located within a Water Protection Zone. The water quality has been monitored for many years and there is no evidence of any contamination.

Bordertown town water is supplied from a series of bores about 5kms west of the town and are under the control of SA Water. The intake to the underground areas is by a series of 'runaway holes' 4kms east of the town. These are fed from the Tatiara Creek that actually terminates in these runaway holes. The system can see up to one hundred mega litres a day going underground. It is considered that this is the only naturally occurring use in Australia, of town storm water being scrubbed by underground storage and then reused as the town water supply.

Town effluent goes to a series of oxidation ponds and then into a large reed-bed wetland. This is also used for effluent disposal by a large abattoir, the Tatiara Meat Company, after the abattoir has treated its effluent to remove all solids. The area is within a water protection area and this facility must dispose of 1.2 mega-litres of high BOD effluent per day. There is no further outflow from the wetlands and water removal is by surface evaporation and floral trans evaporation. Council adheres to its licence conditions as set by the Environment Protection Authority.

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

Council currently operates three landfill sites at Bordertown, Keith and Padthaway (Padthaway landfill site is due to be closed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010). Bordertown is the only landfill that accepts putrescible waste. A 140L MGB weekly domestic putrescible collection service is provided by Council to township residents only. A private contractor also provides this service to residents outside of the townships for a fee.

A fortnightly recycling collection service is provided to township residents only using a 240L MGB. Green waste is currently taken to the landfills for disposal. This material is tub-grinded into mulch and used for landscaping in parks and landscaping at the landfill sites. Metals are recycled at the landfills and Council provides a Drum-Muster service to dispose of farm chemical containers. Hazardous wastes and tyres are not accepted at any of the landfill sites.

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

There is little residential land in the Tatiara District Council that would be classified as 'contaminated'.

Any land use that has the potential to contaminate, especially in a Residential or Town Centre zone, is noted on the property file as this provides a history which can be checked if an application is lodged for a sensitive land use.

If an application is lodged with Council for a sensitive land use and there is knowledge that the previous land use may have contaminated the site, soil sampling is requested with certification from an Environmental Auditor that the site is suitable for its intended use.

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

As set out in 2.2, as well as sharps container/needle monitoring and data collection (amounts/locations etc).

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

Generally these are referred to the Environment Protection Authority.

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

Generally these are referred to the Environment Protection Authority.

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

Council's Fire Prevention Officer monitors camping and roadside stops, especially during the Fire Danger Season, to make sure flammable rubbish is removed and campfires meet the provisions of the Act.

Council does have by-laws to control camping on Council reserves. Council controlled playgrounds are inspected every 6 months for damaged equipment and to determine if there is sufficient soft fall. Remedial action is taken as required.

The Local Government Association Mutual Liability Risk Assessor undertakes ad-hoc audits of playground equipment and any recommendations are normally implemented.

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

Council's main activity in this area is with CFS and SES activities.

Council has prepared a Draft Local Emergency Recovery & Response Plan which covers numerous issues including Food/Water Contamination, Hazardous or Dangerous Materials Emergencies and Human Epidemics. It is envisaged that the Plan will be adopted in the very near future.

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

In any event where a development application is suspected to potentially impact on public health or the environment, the Environmental Health Officer assesses and makes recommendations.

**7.11 Other**

**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)*

**Appendix 1 & 2 to follow**

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

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**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.**

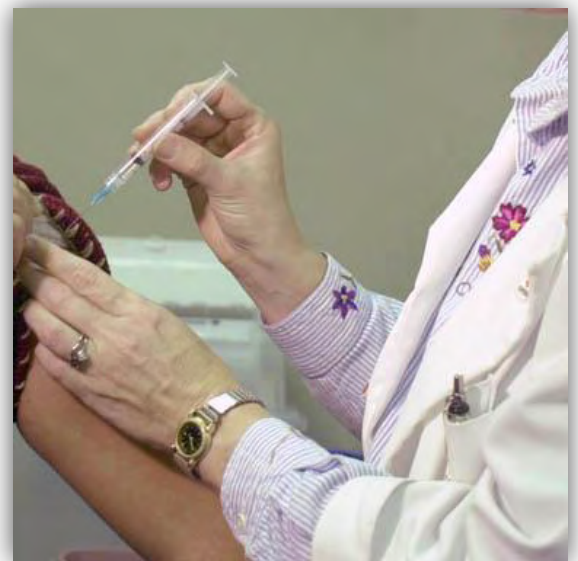
**Appendix 1a****Bordertown Memorial Hospital****For the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

<b>No. of children immunised per month (pre school children)</b>	
Jul	0
Aug	4
Sep	0
Oct	0
Nov	3
Dec	2
Jan	4
Feb	4
Mar	0
Apr	0
May	2
Jun	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

<b>Number of Vaccinations provided</b>	
<b>Type of Vaccination</b>	<b>Total number of Vaccinations</b>
HepB/Hib	14
DTPa/IPV	14
PCV	10
MMR	9
VZV	1
MenC	4
Rotateq	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

<b>Staff Numbers (immunisation nurses)</b>	
Childhood vaccination program	1
School vaccination program	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Staff Training</b>
Nurses are encouraged to attend training workshops and in-services when on offer.

**Regularity of Council Operated Public Clinics**

- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Regularity of School Clinics**

- 3-4 per year, depending on what is needed. Total vaccinations administered at Bordertown High School during 08/09 – 166.

**Regularity of Workplace Clinics**

- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Adverse events occurring at the clinics or reported to the Council**

- Nil adverse reactions reported or witnessed.

## Appendix 1b

### Keith Community Health Service

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

No. of children immunised per month (pre school children)	
Jul	3
Aug	1
Sep	4
Oct	3
Nov	5
Dec	7
Jan	4
Feb	5
Mar	2
Apr	6
May	1
Jun	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

Number of Vaccinations provided	
Type of Vaccination	Total number of Vaccinations
Hep B/Hib	45
DTPa	45
Hib/Hep B (Hiberix)	2
IPV	45
PCV	45
MMR	3
VZV	1
PPV	4
MenC	2
Rotateq	45
Infanrix IPV	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>

Staff Numbers (immunisation nurses)	
Childhood vaccination program	2
School vaccination program	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

Staff Training
Immunisation Course – Uni SA 2008 Basic Life Support 08/09 Advanced Life Support 09

#### Regularity of Council Operated Public Clinics

- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

#### Regularity of School Clinics

- 3 per year. Total vaccinations administered at Keith Area School during 08/09 – 20.

#### Regularity of Workplace Clinics

- 1 day per month

#### Adverse events occurring at the clinics or reported to the Council

- 1 adverse reaction following school immunisations in April 2009. Reported to Immunisation Coordination Unit.

## Appendix 2

**Statistics for local government area of TATIARA for Period  
01 Jul 2008 to 30 Jun 2009 (Notification Date) - All  
Diseases**


Government of South Australia  
Department of Health  
Communicable Disease Control Branch

Disease	LGA Statistics		State		Sex		Age (years)		
	Total Cases	Rate*	Total Cases	Rate*	Males	Females	Min	Max	Median
Campylobacter	11	152.9	1,692	112.5	10	1	3	68	33
Cryptosporidiosis	1	13.9	89	5.9	0	1		2	
Influenza	8	111.2	1,355	90.1	6	2	3	44	31
Pertussis	13	180.7	2,560	170.2	4	9	4	71	32
Rotavirus	1	13.9	325	21.6	0	1		31	
Salmonella	4	55.6	650	43.2	2	2	0	31	14
Varicella virus	6	83.4	1,615	107.4	3	3	3	32	10
Yersinia	1	13.9	14	0.9	0	1		16	

\* Rates are calculated per 100,000 people and based on an LGA population of 7,194 and State Population of 1,504,040; derived from ABS 2006 preliminary census data.

The enclosed statistical report is provided to you for your information, as required under the Public and Environmental Health Act (1987).

Please note that the *Disease Summary* is intended only for the information of the Environmental Health Officers (or those involved in the follow-up of infectious diseases) in the relevant Councils. It could contain details which may identify individuals and should not be distributed to other Council staff, the general public or the media.