

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL

25 Pirie Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

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)
Albert Chong	Associate Diploma Environmental Health	21 years / 7 months	22 November 1988
Rebecca Dyson	Bachelor of Environmental Health	4 years / 7 months	6 December 2004
*George Karipidis	Bachelor of Environmental Health	2 years / 11 months	26 April 2006
Kate Hudson	Bachelor of Environmental Health	2 years / 9 months	11 December 2008
Bradley Mackintosh	Bachelor of Environmental Health	1 year / 3 months	8 October 2008
Nicole Argent	Bachelor of Environmental Health	1 year / 2 months	4 November 2008

*Note: George Karipidis left for a total period of three (3) months to explore further study options before recommencing with Adelaide City Council.

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)
*Eleni Kokkoni	Bachelor or Applied Science (Environmental Health)	14 hours	7 years	3 August 1998

*Note: Eleni Kokkoni has taken a total of four (4) years maternity leave whilst employed with Adelaide City Council.

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
David Judson	Associate Diploma Environmental Health	37.5 hours	15 years	29 June – 30 September 2009

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.
Fulltime	37.5	N/A	N/A	Position to be advertised in the near future

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987 (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	
Administration	*2
Other (please specify)	

* Note: One (1) Administration Officer contracted non-employee (4 May – 30 September 2009)

1.2 Staff Training

- **Food Auditors Training Course (Department of Health (DoH))** – One (1) Environmental Health Officer (EHO) completed the Food Auditors Training Course in order to become accredited to conduct Food Safety Program Audits.
- **Integrated Risk Management (DoH)** – One (1) EHO completed Integrated Risk Management following Food Auditor Training Course to obtain the Diploma of Business (Quality Auditing).
- **Skill Exam Food Audit (DoH)** – One (1) EHO completed Food Safety Program Skills Exam Audit, and fulfilled the final requirement to become an DoH Approved Food Safety Auditor process.
- **Microbial control of building cooling water systems (AS/NZS3666: 1, 2, 3) Managing Legionella and your risk (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH))** – Three (3) EHOs attended to gain a detailed understanding of the Standards following introduction of the *Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008*.
- **In-house training with External Provider (Nalco)** – Seven (7) EHOs completed onsite training of High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (i.e. cooling tower and warm water systems) to obtain a greater understanding of the requirements under the *Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008*.

- **EHO Infection Control Workshop for Skin Penetration Procedures (DoH)**– One (1) EHO completed training on the ‘Guidelines on the Safe and hygienic practice of skin penetration’ under the *Public & Environmental Health Act 1987*
- **Nationally Recognised Pool Operations Training Course (Aquatic Operation & Development Australasia)** – One (1) EHO complete Pool Operations Training in order to build on current skills and knowledge of public pool/spa.
- **Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008 (DoH)** – Six (6) EHOs attended an education session to enable prior understanding of the requirements of the *Regulation* before commencement.

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- PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT & REGULATIONS**

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	31	0	0
17	Control of offensive activities	9	0	0
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	3	0	0
19	Private thoroughfare	12	0	0
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	2	0	0
21	Pollution of water		0	0
22	Closure of water supplies		0	0
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	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).

Majority of the 'insanitary condition' complaints (under Section/s 15, 16, 19 and 20) received by Environmental Health Services were relating to cleanliness of toilets and/or waste management (i.e. 39 = 93% of total complaints received). Majority of refuse complaints were a result of commercial premises waste storage in public and private areas including laneways. Other complaints reported were in relation to vacant premises and mould affected carpet resulting from water damage.

No notices under section 15, 16, 19 or 20 of the Act were served as owners of premises took prompt action to resolve the matters.

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

In regards to waste/pest issues the implicated properties were varied from private and public laneways, business and residence around the City and North Adelaide.

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

In cases, resulting to insanitary laneways and waste receptacles, the persons/business responsible could not be identified as a number of businesses share the use of the property/laneways and or the receptacle. In such circumstances Adelaide City Council Cleansing Department assisted with removal of rubbish.

2.2 Monitoring and management of Offensive Activities

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

There were a total of twelve (12) complaints received in this category. All complaints were unable to be justified after investigation and were considered to be isolated occurrences (i.e. urinating in stairway, feeding of pigeons and graffiti written with blood).

Several complaints received were classed as discharge of waste in a public area. Two complaints received were a result of isolated occurrences (i.e. bucket of unknown fluid thrown from a unit window and a missing sewer drain cap). One (1) complaint was a result of inappropriate disposal of liquid in a waste receptacle which consequently resulted in fluid discharge when collected.

No notices were served under sections 17 and 18 of the Act were served as owners of premises took prompt action to resolve the matters and/or offending individuals could not be identified.

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3 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

By combining complaints investigated under the *Food Act 2001* and *Public & Environmental Health 1987* and in consideration of complaints that were investigated by other units of Development & Environmental Services 'waste management' complaints are the greatest number of complaints received.

However, there is an ongoing issue in trying to identify the individuals/businesses responsible for poor waste management practices. The City East region has a high concentration of businesses (both food and retail) that utilise laneways for refuse storage (sharing the laneway and/or waste receptacle).

On many occasions, Environmental Health Services with support from Compliance Services have written letters advising businesses of their obligations to curb poor practices. When complaints are lodged in problematic areas continual monitoring of the area is conducted, to help identify the offender.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Environmental Health Services has divided the Adelaide City Council jurisdiction (City and North Adelaide) into five geographical areas and each Officer is assigned a section to inspect and monitor. Many issues are identified during the course of Officers routine activities and through complaints from the general public.

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

When complaints are received from the public or business they are investigated by Environmental Health Services as a matter of priority. However, some complaints are given higher priority due to the risk characterisation. For example, complaints such as 'alleged food poisoning' and 'Department of Health Notification of Disease' are given higher priority as opposed to issues relating to 'waste' or "odour emissions' etc.

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).

No report. Adelaide City Council Environmental Health Services has not conducted any programs specifically aimed at dealing with vulnerable populations.

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	38	73	1	2	86
Spa	24	42	1	2	55
Hydrotherapy	2	2	0	0	2
Waterslide	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	64	117	2	4	143

Note: The total number of inspections (i.e. Total 143) also includes follow-up inspections subsequently conducted due to an unsatisfactory routine inspection.

During an inspection a water sample from each pool/spa was collected and tested using a palintest kit. The kit was used to verify whether water quality parameters such as chlorine/bromine, pH and alkalinity were within the standards specified in the *Public and Environmental Health (General) Regulations 2006* and associated Codes and Standards. Also, during the inspection, records were reviewed and other areas of the facility were also inspected to ensure general cleanliness/maintenance (i.e. change rooms, showers).

During the year, two (2) complaints were received by Environmental Health Services (EHS). They include:

- One (1) complaint from Department of Health advising of a notification of confirmed *Pseudomonas folliculitis*. Pool water quality, cleanliness including filter/pump maintenance was investigated. – Note: *This is not a Notifiable Disease*
- One (1) complaint regarding skin and eye sensitivity and bather fading. Pool water quality and maintenance was investigated.

EHS also received one (1) notification of *Pseudomonas* detected from premises routine testing (not required) of pool filters. EHS ensured measures were taken to remove and prevent further occurrences.

4.2.1 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	423	120	2	0	128
Warm Water System	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	424	120	2	0	128

Note: The total number of inspections (i.e. Total 128) also includes follow-up inspections subsequently conducted due to unsatisfactory routine inspections.

From 1 October 2008, the new *Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008* (the '*Regulations*') came into to force. The '*Regulations*' required mandatory registration of High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (Cooling Towers, Evaporative Condensors and Warm Water Systems) which have not been required previously for these and/or any other business captured under the *Public & Environmental Health Act 1987* or *Food Act 2001*.

The '*Regulations*' also require all High Risk Manufactured Water Systems to be inspected and sampled at least once annually. Delegations under the '*Regulations*' to enable enforcement did not come through until February 2009.

During the year, two (2) complaints were received by Environmental Health Services. They include.

- One (1) complaint/notification regarding High Heterotrophic Colony Count (HCC) notification (>100,000 cfu/mL). This notification was prior commencement of the '*Regulations*.'
- One (1) complaint/query regarding suspected Legionella due to multiple illnesses in a business. On investigation all sampling results within the timeframe of the onset illness were satisfactory. No further action required as agreed by Department of Health).

Post implementation of the new '*Regulations*,' Adelaide City Council received the following notifications as a result from water sampling:

- Three high Legionella count (10 - 999 cfu/mL).
- One notifiable Legionella count (>1000 cfu/mL)
- Four high HCC count(>100,000 cfu/mL)

Once advised of notification, instruction was given by Environmental Health Services to businesses to implement the mandatory Prescribe Decontamination Procedure and follow-up sampling. Businesses also advised that follow-up sampling results must be provided and all treatments /servicing to be recorded in the log book.

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

No report. Adelaide City Council jurisdiction is connected to sewer and therefore there is no record of septic tanks, STEDS within the boundaries of the Council.

b. **Immunisation programs**

Clinic Type	Number of Clinics
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	13
Number of School Clinics	24
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	4
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	0
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	5
TOTAL	46

Public Clinic

The Adelaide City Council operates a Public Immunisation Clinic at the South West Community Centre in Sturt Street, Adelaide. The clinic operates as a 'drop-in.' clinic and is open every third Tuesday of the month for a two hour period. In May 2009 an additional clinic was held for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in response to the Influenza A (H1N1) (Swine Flu) pandemic.

The Clinic offers a variety of vaccines including Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine (Cervical Cancer catch up program), Hepatitis A and B, Influenza, MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella), Meningococcal C, Pneumococcal, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (whooping cough), Polio and Chicken Pox. The vaccines are administered free of charge to people in age-groups specified in the National Immunisation Schedule and if requested the cost of the vaccine is charged to all other members of the public.

Over 2008/09 the Adelaide City Council Public Immunisation Clinic saw 243 clients and administered 424 vaccines.

School Clinic

The following secondary schools fall within the Adelaide City Council jurisdiction:

- Adelaide High School
- Christian Brothers College
- Pulteney Grammar School
- St Aloysius College
- St Domenic's Priory College
- St Mary's College

During 2008/09 Adelaide City Council School Based Immunisation Program administered a total of 3,176 vaccines.

Vaccinations Administered 2008/09	School Based Immunisation Program
Hepatitis B	1,106
Varicella Zoster (Chicken Pox)	333
Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV – Cervical Cancer)	1,027
Diphtheia/tentanus/Pertussis	710
TOTAL	3,176

Internal (Council Staff) Clinics

Adelaide City Council Occupation Health, Safety & Welfare Unit runs the internal immunisation program. A total of four (4) Influenza vaccination clinics and five clinics for Hepatitis A and B vaccination with Hepatitis Immunity Blood Collection were held.

Note: Two extra Influenza clinics were held in 2008/09 due to the Swine Flu pandemic.

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

No.	Micro-organism	Type of Premises investigated	Summary of actions taken and outcome of investigation
1	Hepatitis A	Function Service Company	<p>Following notification and direction from the Department of Health (DoH), Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB), Adelaide City Council Environmental Health Services (EHS) investigated two (2) functions that occurred whilst affected person was in the infectious period).</p> <p>During investigation it was found that the affected person did not prepare any food. Nevertheless, Department of Health arranged for the potentially affected persons to be provided with appropriate vaccinations as a precautionary measure.</p>
2	Hepatitis A	Food Premise	<p>Following notification and direction EHS assisted DoH with a cluster investigation.</p> <p>During investigation, the kitchen facilities, food processing, food handling and storage practices were deemed satisfactory. Food suppliers and staff illness were given particular attention.</p> <p>Connection was made of a particular food product resulting in a Trade Level Recall (semi-sun dried tomatoes) due to potential Hepatitis A contamination.</p>
3	Salmonella typhirium	Food Premises	<p>Following notification and direction from DoH, EHS conducted inspection where case/s ate.</p> <p>During investigation the kitchen facilities, food processing, food handling and storage practices were deemed satisfactory. Food samples taken returned a positive Salmonella result with the same typing as affected person/s.</p> <p>Cause of contamination/outbreak could not be determined.</p>
4	Salmonella typhirium	Food Premises	<p>Following notification from affected persons and CDCB, food premises where case/s ate were inspected.</p> <p>During investigation menu and suppliers lists were obtained as well as samples of suspected food. All food samples returned negative Salmonella result. Nevertheless the premise was found in an unsatisfactory state at time of investigation and action was taken as necessary.</p>

5	Legionella pneumophila 1	Counselling Centre	<p>Following notification and direction from the DoH, an investigation of log books and maintenance records was undertaken of High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (HRMWS) within the vicinity where case visited.</p> <p>All results were satisfactory. DoH was advised. No further investigation required.</p>
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Furthermore to the above table, EHS has received four (4) Salmonella, one (1) Shigella and eleven (11) Campylobacter notifications from CDCB. These notifications were advised as a "For Your Information" only and no actions were required.

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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	5	0	0	0	2
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	101	4	0	0	4
Other	0	0	1	1	1
Total	106	4	1	1	7

A total of two (2) tattoo & body piercing premises had follow-up inspection during the course of the year as a result of unsatisfactory routine inspections conducted in 2007/08 financial year.

Four (4) hairdressing/beauty salons were inspected. No follow-up inspection required.

One (1) complaint was received during the year. This complaint was in relation to an alleged reaction to make-up applied by a make-up artist.

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	119	Y
Head Lice	0	
Flies	0	
Pigeons	16	Y
Scabies	0	
Cockroaches	21	Y - On request
Bees	68	Y - On request
European Wasps	113	Y - On request
Other (Termites, ants, possums etc)	47	Y - On request
TOTAL	384	

Rodent activity forms a significant part of the work undertaken by the Adelaide City Council (ACC) Pest Control Unit. Certain areas in the City are proactively monitored for rodent activity and are baited and trapped to ensure rodent numbers are kept within control. Also, other areas of Council are involved from time-to-time. For example, plants and landscape designs provide protection to rodents (i.e. burrows) and make it difficult for Pest Control Officers to monitor and maintain control. In these circumstances the ACC Horticulture Team will either trim or remove vegetation to enable pest control to be conducted.

Due to the damage pigeon droppings cause on buildings and potential health implications of accumulated droppings ACC Pest Control regularly traps and disposes of feral pigeons, members of the public are also requested to refrain from feeding feral pigeons.

All other pest control measures are undertaken as requested by the community (i.e. complaints/enquiries).

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

Environmental Health Services regularly conduct inspections of events which may from time-to-time include mobile petting zoo. During these times, Environmental Health Officers inspect to verify compliance with the Department of Health Petting Zoo Infection Control Guidelines, with the particular focus being to ensure the provisions of hand wash (i.e. soap and running water) were readily available to the general public.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Through Adelaide City Council (ACC) Emergency Response Planning Group, Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Unit developed a Pandemic OHS & W Controls Policy. The policy outlines specific guidelines for the management of ACC staff that may have been exposed to pandemic infection (including the 'flu'). A corporate Emergency Response Plan was also developed focusing on Pandemics.

In response to the Influenza A (H1N1) – Swine Flu, Environmental Health Services assisted in the purchasing and stockpiling of Personal Protective Equipment including: P2 masks, surgical masks, tissues, alcohol surface wipes, gloves and alcohol based sanitising hand gels.

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)

HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

During the 2008/09 financial year, Environmental Health Officers conducted:

- Two (2) lectures to high school students. The lectures covered matters such as food safety, legislation and the role of an Environmental Health Officer;
- One (1) lecture to a Chinese Community Welfare Group for South Australia covering legislative requirements including food safety, handling and hygiene;
- One (1) lecture to an Anglicare Special Needs Group with the main focus being on food safety at home for mentally disabled; and
- Three (3) lectures to food handlers participating in community events within the Adelaide City Council jurisdiction. The presentations covered aspects of food safety, food hygiene and legislative requirements.
- One (1) presentation to a commercial property management company on the introduction of the new *Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) regulations 2008*.

Environmental Health Services distributes a Temporary Food Premises Events Poster, which outlines the requirements under the *Food Act 2001, Food Safety Standards* to all food stalls caterers prior an event. This is to ensure that all participants are aware of their obligations prior the event and inspections being conducted.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

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

The Adelaide City Council jurisdiction operates on mains water for potable usage. It is uncertain the number of residential homes that are currently plumbed with rainwater for drinking purposes.

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

The 2008/09 monitoring program of the Torrens included:

- *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) occurring once monthly. Frequency increases when set critical limits (equal to or greater than 1,000 cells/mL at five or more locations) are reached. Note: Additional testing may occur after the event of heavy rainfall following a lengthy dry period.
- Cyanobacterial bloom (blue-green algal) monitoring commenced in December 2008 and concluded in May 2009. The frequency of monitoring during this period was scheduled fortnightly until the onset of the cyanobacterial bloom whereby the frequency was increased to weekly or twice weekly.

The following sites were utilised in the sampling programs:

- Torrens Lake City Weir;
- Morphett Street Bridge
- Elder Park;
- Adelaide Bridge, King William Street;
- University Foot Bridge;
- Albert Bridge, Frome Road; and
- Hackney Road Bridge.

Based on the 2005 National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) document entitled 'Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water' the cyanobacterial trigger value, which determines whether the Torrens should close to the public, is when the sample results from two or more sites record a total concentration of greater than or equal to 50,000 cells/mL.

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

Adelaide City Council, Citywide Services (Cleansing Team) undertake regular waste collection for residents, businesses, public areas and events. Furthermore, the Cleansing Team also assists in keeping laneways within Adelaide City Council jurisdiction in a clean and hygienic state and hence, contributes to the control of rodents and other public health pests.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

Environmental Health Services (EHS) had no Contaminated Land issues in the 2008/09 financial year.

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

Environmental Health Services did not receive any complaints with regard to hazardous substances including asbestos or medical waste.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Sixteen (16) complaints regarding odours were received and actioned by Environmental Health Services. Sources of the odour complaint included: burning, fuel, sewage, paint and carwash recycled water.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Five (5) noise complaints were received and actioned by Adelaide City Council (ACC) Environmental Health Services. Source of the noise complaints included: vehicle (waste removal truck); leaf blower and refrigeration compressor. An additional two (2) complaints were received regarding residential noise (loud music). Complainants were advised that residential noise is police matter.

Construction noise complaints are actioned by ACC Compliance Services and Development Services Teams and event noise complaints are actioned by the ACC Events Marketing Team.

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

There are no authorised recreational caravan or camping grounds within the Adelaide City Council jurisdiction. Compliance Services monitor unauthorised camping grounds in the parklands and when requested Environmental Health Services will inspect.

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

The Emergency Response Planning Group developed Information kits and proforma for Business Unit Managers for updating and where necessary developing Business Continuity Plans.

As previously discussed in **Section 4.9**, an Emergency Response Plan was developed for Pandemic Response.

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

A total of fifty (50) development applications were assessed by Environmental Health Services. The majority of applications that were reviewed were of new food premises fit-outs where by Environmental Health Officers checked for compliance with the *Food Safety Standards 3.2.3: Food Premises and Equipment*.

8. OTHER

Short Term/Long Term Accommodation

Adelaide City Council Environmental Health and Development Services inspect lodging houses (backpackers, long term accommodation with shared hygiene facilities) for compliance under *Local Government Act 1999, By-Law 5*. This includes compliance with the *Public & Environmental Health Act 1987* and *Development Act 1993*.

Under the By-Law, lodging houses are required to have annual inspection for licensing purposes. During the 2008/09 financial year fifty-three (53) routine inspections were conducted. Twenty-five (25) follow-up inspections were also conducted to ensure that unsatisfactory issues were rectified.

All current fifty (50) lodging house premises within the Adelaide City Council jurisdiction have obtained Lodging House Licence for the 2009/10 financial year.

During the course of the year, five (5) complaints were received regarding long and short term accommodation premises (lodging houses and hotel). Sources of the complaints include bed-bugs, poor cleanliness and waste/cockroach sightings.

Events

Environmental Health Services (EHS) distributes a Temporary Food Premises Events Poster, which outlines the requirements under the *Food Act 2001, Food Safety Standards* to all food stalls caterers prior an event. When determined necessary EHS will also conduct a 'Food Safety and Hygiene' presentation to ensure each food handler has an understanding of their requirements.

During 2008/09 financial year approximately four hundred (400) food stalls at twenty-six (26) separate events (minor and major) were inspected for compliance with the *Food Act 2001*, which included: hand wash set-up; sanitiser availability and use; temperature control; food storage, handling and processing practices etc. Other aspects included dust control and other activities captured under *the Public & Environmental Health Act 1987*. Environmental Health Officers remained onsite (if necessary) until non-compliances were rectified.

Registration of High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (HRMWS)

With the commencement of new legislation, the *Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008* on 1 October 2008 introduced mandatory registration of all HRMWS (cooling water and warm water systems). To facilitate and assist affected businesses to fulfil their requirements under the new regulations Environmental Health Services (EHS) executed the following tasks:

- A mail out to all known premises (178) that have HRMWS. This included; a copy of the *Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008*, Guidelines for the Control of Legionella in Manufactured Water Systems in South Australia and a HRMWS Registration form..
- An introductory letter, advising of the new legislation relating to HRMWS to all commercial building owners within Adelaide City Council jurisdiction.
- Website update to contain all relevant legislation (including a read only link of the Australian Standards), forms for Registration and notification of Legionella (>1000cfu/mL) and further general information.
- Attended numerous meetings to provide or facilitate information sessions on the new legislation, including question and answer sessions.

EHS has received approximately 80% of the HRMWS Registration forms from known HRMWS. However, on reviewing the returned Registration forms it has been found that majority do not provide key required information (i.e. building owner address, residential details for the responsible person). This process started in September 2008 and Environmental Health Officers are still currently working to gain information required to allow the HRMWS to be registered.

Through the above mentioned process, EHS have identified an additional fifteen (15) cooling water system premises that were previously unknown, to which has been added the inspection lists. EHS is still in the process of identifying warm water system premises.

The introduction of the *Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008* has introduced a large administrative component (Registration) as well as a more comprehensive inspection and a mandatory sampling program. Although cooling towers were previously inspected by Environmental Health Officers, the new Regulations have increased the duration of inspections, reporting and administrative tasks, all of which has a flow on effect.

Adelaide City Council, EHS was invited to present to the Professional Organisation Institute: Environmental Health Australia Disease and Emergency Management Special Interest Group in December 2008. This presentation was to demonstrate the process developed for Registration of HRMWS within Adelaide City Council jurisdiction. During this presentation various templates were distributed to other Councils for examples and/or use in other Council jurisdictions.

Influenza A (H1N1) Swine Flu

Environmental Health Services (EHS) were involved in the following Swine Flu "H1N1" prevention and preparation program.

- "Wash, Wipe, Cover" information program implemented for all staff within Adelaide City Council, including the provision of an information kit with various "Wash, Wipe, Cover" information sheets, and individual boxes of tissues for all staff.
- "Wash, Wipe, Cover" Posters distributed throughout the Adelaide City Council Corporation.
- Installed "Wash, Wipe, Cover" Stations consisting of alcohol hand sanitising gel, tissues and alcohol surface wipe in convenient locations for all staff to easily execute the "Wash, Wipe, Cover" principles.
- Assisted in business continuity planning for Council, including research and the acquisition of personal protective equipment for staff, including P2 masks, surgical masks, tissues, alcohol surface wipes, gloves and alcohol based sanitising hand gels.

EHS constantly monitored the H1N1 situation and provided information to numerous departments throughout Council. EHS advised and implemented through the Executive Management Team (EMT) direction as required from the Department of Health (i.e. in the change of pandemic "Phase").

Date this report was / is to be presented to Council

24/08/2009

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.