

The City of Holdfast Bay

24 Jetty Rd Brighton 5048 ph: 82299999

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)
Don McInnes	RSH Dip Public Health RSH Dip Meat and other foods	37yrs	18 Nov 1985
Craig Nicks	BSc (Environmental Health)	6 yrs	21 Jan 2009
Adrian Hill	BSc, Post Grad Health Admin, Masters Environmental Health	2 yrs	10 September 2009

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)
Darryl Dann	1. Associate Diploma Health Surveying Certificate 2. Occupational Health and Safety Certificate 3. Environmental	19	21yrs	Feb 1988

	Protection Enforcement Certificate			

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
NA				

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
NA				

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.
NA				

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)
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Immunisation Nurses	Approx 25hrs / month
Administration	1 Full time
Other (please specify)	Agency RN staff

1.2 Staff Training

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

- Food Safety Auditor Training (x1 EHO)
- Food Risk Profiling Workshop (x1 EHO)
- Local Government Planning Day (x3 EHOs)
- Occupation Health & Safety Training (internal, all EHOs)
- Emergency Management Planning Seminar: Preparing a Public Health Sub-Plan (x1 EHO)
- AIEH State Conference (x1 EHO)
- AIEH Branch Council, AIEH Food SIG, AIEH Environment SIG
- Immunisation Updates (inc. Imps2, SA Immunisation Network Meetings)
- Authorised Officer Meetings
- Body Piercing 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	52	1	
17	Control of offensive activities	27		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	7		
19	Private thoroughfare	1		
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	0		
21	Pollution of water	0		
22	Closure of water supplies	0		
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
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 (eg hoarded materials, pest infestation).

Hoarded materials, putrescible wastes and pests (primarily rats)
Abandoned premises, unauthorised access and or usage

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

Privately owned and commercial businesses

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

1. The financial burden of proof required to establish if a property cleared of equipment used for a Clandestine Drug Lab is 'insanitary'. Currently, to establish if the property gives rise to a risk to health, a risk assessment by a toxicologist is required which may be an unnecessary expense if the results of the assessment are negative in which case Council can not recover the costs. This is a risk Council will not take. Therefore Council is limited to sending a letter both to the occupier and owner urging them to establish that the property is safe and habitable. Council will also urge the owner, if they are selling their property, to divulge the potential health risks associated with the property. The extent in which we can compel the owner to do this is uncertain.

2. There is no power to order a clean up to stop a premises from becoming insanitary in the future. We are required to wait until there is evidence of an insanitary condition then try to get it cleaned up.

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.

Wood Smoke, offensive smells

1. Woodsmoke complaints are common during cold weather. Information is sent by City of Holdfast Bay (CHB) to the alleged offender which, generally, resolves the problem.

2. The offensive smells reported have been subjective – absent of medical validation of risk to health - consequently we have not always been able to resolve these issues to the satisfaction of the complainant. The complainants however have not pursued continued action from the EHOs.

3. EHOs manage allegations of offensive activities by following the process detailed in the document “Good Administrative Practices in Managing a Complaints Investigation Process” (NSW Ombudsman).

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

CHB continue to have problems with hoarding and the associated insanitary/offensive effects. These problems are dealt with under the current legislation.

Holdfast Bay has an endemic problem with rats. We offer a free rat baiting service and inspect for harbourage and food sources, offering advice on curtailing rat problems.

The ability of the Council and in particular Environmental Health Services to effectively respond to emergencies is a particularly significant issue (particularly with areas prone to flooding and a Pandemic Flu). EHOs have attended Emergency Management Training and work has begun on a Public Health Emergency Management Sub-plan. Networks with neighbouring Councils have been established.

Holdfast Bay receives complaints about illegal Stormwater discharges. Most of these are dealt with by the Stormwater Officer (under the Environment Protection Act).

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

We are made aware of both hoarding and wastewater offences primarily via complaints from the public - though sometimes through investigations.

Emergency management has been increasingly highlighted as a risk area for both Local and State government. CHB is taking a proactive approach within our council.

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

Priority is based on varying factors within Council. Normally these type of complaints are dealt with based on an assessment of the overall risk (to the occupier, neighbour, public etc.). On occasion, priorities are reconsidered (but not necessarily) by political pressure.

Councils statutory duties are taken into account.

Council EHOs are increasingly undertaking formal Risk Assessments. A recent example is an assessment of risks associated with holding a sporting event in the Patawalonga.

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).

SRF residents are a vulnerable group and Officers manage this using the SRF Act however with issues that affect them such as the H1N1 Influenza we have taken a proactive approach to ensure their welfare is taken into account.

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	15	15	0	11	26
Spa	5	5	0	4	9
Hydrotherapy	2	2	0	0	2
Waterslide	1	1	1	3	3
Other	2	2	0	0	2
Total	25	25	1	18	42

Any Additional Comments?

Routine inspections are conducted at the start of the warm weather (usually around November), however we will be introducing biannual inspection for pools that are considered to be high risk.

The operators of pools in two Motels were given cautions for failing to comply with the regulations.

CHB has a flotation tank in its area which has raised some important issues regarding the potential health risks and how we can reduce this risk with legislation that does not specify requirements for these pools. EHOs were limited to recommending the operator conforms with the requirements of a spa pool; however, it is apparent compliance cannot be mandated. This requires further analysis and presents an opportunity to be included in the regulations given that there are more flotation tanks opening up in South Australia. Potential health consequences seem to be poorly understood.

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	5	5	0	0	5
Warm Water System	4	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	5	0	0	5

Any Additional Comments?

Cooling towers are routinely inspected at the beginning of the warmer months (around November). Businesses are required to submit their maintenance reports regularly. The Register required by the P & EH (Legionella) Regulations has been created.

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	0	0	0
Aerobic System	0	0	0
Other (name)	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Any Additional Comments ?

No systems in the City of Holdfast Bay

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	38
Number of School Clinics	10
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	3
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	2
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	1
<i>Total</i>	53

Regularity of Council Operated Public Clinics

- Three clinics each month. Open to anyone.
- 1st Thursday of every month: Morning (10.00-12.00) and Evening (19.00-20.00)
- 3rd Thursday of every month: Afternoon (14.30-16.30)

There were also clinics run for the seasonal flu and additional clinics from concerns raised about H1N1 Influenza.

Furthermore, we have engaged a Market Research Consultant student to explore how immunisation services can be optimised and consequently increase vaccination rates in the Holdfast Bay area.

4.4.2 Regularity of School Clinics

- Normal ongoing School vaccination program for Years 8 & 9 (2 Schools)

4.4.3 Regularity of Workplace Clinics

Fluvax is offered to Council staff at the beginning of each season (April). Council are looking at expanding, offering immunisation services to other organisations.

4.4.5 Have you had any adverse events occur at the clinics or reported to the Council (please describe)

No adverse events reported

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

<i>Provide details of actions resulting from notifiable disease notifications received from CDCB (insert a table if preferred)</i>
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12 potential follow-ups were referred to the City of Holdfast Bay.

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)	66	0*	0	0	0
Other	5	0	0	0	0
Total	72	0	0	0	0

Any Additional Comments ?

* Information (guidelines) given and businesses notified that inspections will be conducted soon. These were informal educational visits discussing the requirements of the legislation. EHO were first awaiting the SA Health education program prior to inspections. Inspections have subsequently occurred however after the financial year.

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	19	N
Rodents	74	Y
Head Lice	0	N
Flies	5	N
Pigeons	15	Y
Scabies	0	N
Cockroaches	0	N
Bees	20	Y
European Wasps	71	Y
Other (please describe)		
	2	N

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

Rats - Operate a free rat baiting program for domestic premises and Council land (Rats - 74 areas have been addressed). We still continue this approach however we are now extending this to be more proactive, i.e. inspections and requiring preventative action.

European Wasps, Bees & Native Wasps - Free destruction of European Wasp nests. Investigate wasp complaints (many turn out to be native wasps), try to track down nests, conduct pamphlet drops in affected areas to find nests. Refer people to apiarists or pest controller for Bees. (55 European Wasp nests treated)

Pigeons – Pest Controller engaged to reduce numbers over the next year

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

City of Holdfast Bay has one horse stable which is inspected each year; or, if there is a complaint.

Council receives a number of complaints regarding the keeping of chickens. They are dealt with on a case by case basis, and Section 254 of the Local Government Act is used if necessary

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Councils Risk Manager has been investigating the matter. Environmental Health Services have begun planning and timetabled the development of a Public Health Emergency Management Sub-Plan (which will include Pandemic Flu).

4.10 Other

n/a

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

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

IF YES

Date commenced

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

NO

(If Yes, go to next item)

<i>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.</i>
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City of Holdfast Bay - Public & Environmental Health Management Directions Plan 2006 - 2011

Executive Summary

This Public and Environmental Health Management Directions Plan sets Council's environmental health strategies for the next five years. The Plan addresses:

- *Council's statutory responsibilities for environmental health;*
- *Environmental health issues of importance to the community;*
- *Relevant Commonwealth and State Government policy;*
- *Relevant goals in Council's Strategic Plan and*
- *Key values for ensuring the effective delivery of environmental health services such as ensuring accountability, a pro-active approach and creating effective partnerships with key stakeholders.*

The Plan is a component of Council's Regulatory Services and provides strategic guidance for operations under the following functional areas:

- *Food Safety*
- *Immunisation*
- *Communicable Disease Control*
- *Supported Residential Facilities*
- *Public Health Pest Control*
- *Control of Legionella*
- *Control of Sharps*
- *Hairdressing and Skin Penetration*
- *Recreational Water Quality*
- *Swimming Pools, Spas, Waterslides and Immersion Tanks*
- *Built Environment*
- *Governance*

The Public and Environmental Health Management Directions Plan was developed in collaboration with Environmental Health staff. The Plan reflects strengths in the Regulatory Services operations as well as

opportunities for improvement. The Plan also recognises proposed State Government reforms and initiatives for a range of environmental health functions that are likely to be implemented within the next five years. Examples include further food legislation reforms and new regulations for Manufactured Water Systems (Cooling Towers), Lodging Houses, Swimming Pools, Spas and Noise. The impacts of such reforms will need to be monitored..

Strategies and actions recommended throughout this Plan take into account the current level of team resources. Few recommended actions are outside the current scope of team resources, yet are considered critical to maintaining environmental health standards in the Council area.

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.

The City of Holdfast Bay places regular articles in the local Messenger newspaper and Council's quarterly 'Holdfast Bay Views' newspaper. Articles placed by Environmental Health Services have included; Council immunisation services, European wasps and food safety. In addition EHOs have provided resources for Flinders University and we are planning on providing information to secondary students..

Council has programs that include Health Education or Community Consultation. These include:

- Events management/co-ordination (which includes various health promotion opportunities e.g. handwashing demonstration)
- Volunteer program
- Youth Networking
- Aged Care services (Alwyndor)
- Grants Program (include things such as fitness equipment)
- Community Transport
- Lifelinks
- Recreation programs
- Feedback on immunisation
- Promotion of immunisation services specifically for 4-5 year olds

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)

Environmental Health Service receive few enquiries regarding rainwater, and provide advice as necessary, referring to the 'Guidance on the use of rainwater tanks' 2004, and distributing the enHealth brochure.

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

- The Patawalonga Lake is controlled primarily by Department of Water, Land, Biodiversity and Conservation, the EPA & the Department of Fisheries, however Council is regularly involved in consultation or in sponsorship of activities with regard to this waterway.
- Council responds to complaints about stormwater discharges
- Council cleans and maintains seven (7) Gross Pollutant Traps as part of its storm water system (in conjunction with neighbouring councils who feed into our system).
- Council employs a Stormwater Protection Officer to educate businesses of their responsibilities in regard to the Environment Protection Act & water quality policy.
- Council is involved in the consultation processes for management plans & codes of practice, reviews etc.

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

- Three bin system for domestic waste (Normal, Recycling & Green Waste)
- Commercial waste is done via contractors (Solo waste)
- Annual hard rubbish collections for domestic properties
- Access to Waste Transfer Station in North Plympton
- Holdfast Bay has a number of small local business that will collect hard rubbish
- Part of "Planet Arc - Recycling Near You" website.
- Produce a waste services directory and recycling directory
- Employment of a Waste Administration Officer and Waste Education Officer

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

Council is monitoring one site

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

Zero waste SA household Chemical Collection Program (bi-yearly or as funding dictates). Council accepts sharps and provides containers for people who require a container to dispose of sharps.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality **Monitoring of Air Quality including Noise**

Air quality / Noise complaints received by Environmental Health Services 2008/2009

Complaint	Number
Odours/Smoke	15
Noise	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>20</i>

The EHS will act on air quality issues associated with insanitary conditions and offensive activities. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is regarded to be the relevant authority for other air quality issues. However, in the interest of customer service, the EHS provides information on air quality matters. Where it is deemed that intervention will have a beneficial outcome (eg. to diffuse neighbourhood disputes, advocacy), EHOs will take a more active role in helping resolve noise issues.

Councils regulatory services officers (General Inspectors) deal with dog barking noise complaints (44 complaints and 26 actions taken).

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations (see above)

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

Playgrounds, parklands and beaches are all monitored by Council's Manager Environmental Field Services. Risk assessment is undertaken by his staff in consultation with Councils Risk/Property Officer.

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

Councils Risk Management Officer has been developing the Council EM plan. Environmental Health Services are contributing to a Public Health EM Sub-plan.

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

Environmental Health Services are referred relevant development applications. Councils Building and Planning department consults with EHS to determine if a DA raises issues that may influence Environmental Health. Statistics in relation to the number of referrals are not kept.

7.11 Other

Clandestine Drug Labs

SAPOL recently notified Council of Clandestine Drug Labs that have been cleared. This has been a new challenge as far as determining the extent of involvement from Council and the potential health risks. Currently, we are limited to notifying the

occupier and owner of the property and recording the information on our Health Manager system. As mentioned previously, the owner of the property is not compelled to clean up unless it has been verified that a risk to health exists. CHB has currently been notified of 2 Clandestine Drug labs in its area.

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)

n/a

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.