

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOUNT BARKER

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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 <i>full time</i> employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week) (30 June 2009)			
Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Eddie Richter	Diploma for Public Health Inspectors - Royal Society of Health (RSH) (London)	32 years	November 1994
John Carrangis	RSH Diplomas in Public Health & Meat & Other Foods. Short courses in Public Health including: epidemiology, Vaccination/immunology, infectious diseases investigation, statistics, conducting health promotion programs/evaluation, Legionella control, food safety, noise control	Over 30 years in public health	1 st July 2005
Hannah Johansen	Bachelor of Environmental Health (Flinders University)	3 years	15 th January 2007

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	0.8FTE & 0.1FTE (casual RN)
Administration	0.52FTE (Immunisation admin) & 0.05FTE (casual immunisation admin) & 0.34FTE (health admin)
Technical Officer (CWMS)	0.6 FTE

1.2 Staff Training

Council Environmental Health staff attended the following training/workshops:

- Norman Waterhouse Order Making Seminar– Navigating the Legal Framework', 1st August 2008
- ASM & AIFST Salmonella & Listeria Seminars, 16th July /10th September 2008
- Department of Health Legionella Education Session, 15th September 2008
- EHA Clandestine Drug Labs Seminar, 24th September 2008
- Commfac Pty Ltd Swimming Pool Operator Training Course, 11th - 12th December 2008
- LGA EHO's Seminar – Regulatory Activities in Council: Dealing with the Ombudsman, 1st December 2008
- Department of Health Biolytix Training, 30th January 2009
- EHA State Conference, 15th – 17th April 2009
- MapInfo Professional Training Course, 13th - 14th of May 2009
- Department of Health Swine Flu Workshop, 9th June 2009
- EHO Infection Control Workshop, 19th June 2009

Council's Immunisation staff attended:

- The South Australian Immunisation Network Country Meeting in Port Augusta, July 2008
- CPR refresher course, August 2008

EHOs are members of Environmental Health Australia Food Safety, Wastewater, Disease Control/Emergency Management and Climate Change SIGs and attend Southern Region EHO meetings.

Staff showed their support for Environmental Health students by attending the Flinders University 3rd year poster presentation day on 7th Nov 2008.

One EHO was a member of the EHA State Conference Organising Committee.

One EHO was a member of the enHealth (Commonwealth Health) Future of Environmental Health, Australia Working Party.

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	5	1	
17	Control of offensive activities	5		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	-		
19	Private thoroughfare	-		
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	1		
21	Pollution of water	6		
22	Closure of water supplies	-		
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	-		
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).

Accumulated materials, rubbish, rodent activity/harbourage, and odours were the main concerns.

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

Three of the five insanitary conditions reported relate to SA Housing Trust properties. Others relate to privately owned, rural premises.

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

These issues were resolved through negotiation with the South Australian Housing Trust and residents. One Public and Environmental Health Act Notice (Section 15) was served on a private rural property.

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.

- Effluent escaping from a broken pipe into a neighbouring property
- Complaint regarding turkey farm operations (noise, dust, odour)
- Complaint regarding accumulation of cow manure across cattle crossing in a rural area causing offensive odours
- Two complaints relate to wood smoke

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

- The State Government's *Draft 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide* proposes an additional 20,000 residents for the Mount Barker region over the next 15 years by significantly expanding the Mount Barker township boundary. This proposed population increase raises many public and environmental health issues including: increase of wastewater treatment facilities and reuse; water supplies; public safety, transport and recreation; increased immunisation services; climate change impacts; noise and air pollution issues; healthy neighbourhood design and access to health services.
- The region has recorded a higher than state average infection rate of certain notifiable diseases. The reason for this is unknown. Promotion of vaccination programs, infection control and food safety continues.
- The district has several townships not serviced by SA Water. Water quality is monitored by Council routinely in some areas, and by request from residents and businesses.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

As part of the consultation on the *Draft 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide* Council's planning department consulted with the Environmental Health Section. Future potential public and environmental health issues were identified through this process.

Rates of notifiable diseases were reported to Council by SA Health.

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

No change since previous reporting period.

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).

Council's Community Services and Home and Community Care teams continue to provide an invaluable service to the district's growing vulnerable populations including the elderly, those without transport, and those with physical, social, emotional and intellectual challenges.

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	8	7	-	1	8
Spa	-	-	-	-	-
Hydrotherapy	-	-	-	-	-
Waterslide	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1	1	-	-	1
Total	9	8	-	1	9

'Other' refers to a floatation tank recently opened in Mount Barker.

An inspection was conducted as a follow up to a notification from the Department of Health of a case of *Cryptosporidium*. Super-chlorination was carried out by the pool operator. The pool was not confirmed as the source of the infection as the infected person had other risk factors. Further copies of the 'STOP! - Healthy Swimmers Checklist' poster were distributed.

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	None identified				
Warm Water System	6	5	-	-	5
Other	NIL				
Total	6	5			5

Warm water systems were identified through investigations as a result of the new Legionella regulations. No cooling water systems have been identified at this time.

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	294	640	1
Aerobic System	33	47	1
Other (Sandfilter)	1	1	-
Total	328	688	2

The above figures are approximate only. 'Septic Tank' numbers are a combined total of subsurface soakage trench systems and septic tank systems connected to Council's CWMS.

4.4 Immunisation programs

<i>Clinic Type</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	74
Number of School Clinics	35
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	5
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	17
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	7
<i>Total</i>	138

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

Notifiable disease notifications are followed up by a prompt phone call & mail-out to the infected person. The details of the follow up include:

- Possible source of infection; whether others had similar symptoms (around the same time); whether GP confirmed the disease
- Provision of fact sheets from 'You've Got What?'
- Provision of other related supportive written information
- Information received is collated and any further follow up required is undertaken
- CDCB informed of specific notifications investigations
- Occasionally GP's informed of disease notification & follow up actions taken
- Rates of infection are forwarded to the Adelaide Hills Division of General Practice, the Mount Barker Hospital (and infection control section) and local newspaper 'The Courier'.

This is considered to be a valuable health promotion and education opportunity.

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)	36	0	0	0	0
Other	NIL				
Total	38	0	0	0	0

Inspections conducted during the last reporting period revealed both tattoo parlours in the district to be compliant with the *Guidelines on the Safe and Hygienic Practice of Skin Penetration*. Routine inspections will be conducted in the following months to assess ongoing compliance with the Guidelines.

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	2	N
Rodents	84	Y
Head Lice	-	-
Flies	1	N
Pigeons	3	N
Scabies	-	-
Cockroaches	-	-
Bees	4	Y
European Wasps	610	Y
Possums	2	N

No change to control programs since previous reporting period.

European Wasps – The number of nests destroyed during the reporting period increased significantly due to the very hot, dry weather experienced.

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

An annual visit is undertaken of the local petting zoo. Overall sanitation, hand washing and toilet facilities, and adequacy of public health signage are assessed. Food safety compliance is also monitored.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

A 'Stop the Spread' campaign was developed with the aim to educate and raise awareness in the community on the prevention of colds, influenza and tummy bugs. A brochure was developed by the Hills Area Pandemic Planning – Influenza (HAPP-I) Group for distribution to the community. These were distributed to all ratepayers within the district through Council's 2008 rates notices. A fridge magnet has recently been developed which is available through Council. These have been distributed to various individuals and groups, including local schools.

In addition, 'Wash, Wipe, Cover' presentations were presented at three local primary schools, reaching approximately 800 school students. These sessions focussed on the 'Wash, Wipe, Cover...Don't infect another!' message.

Council's EHOs continue to be members of the HAPP-I Group.

4.10 Other

No report

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

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports?

YES

The District Council of Mount Barker's Draft Community Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018 is currently undergoing a review in light of the State Government's 30 Year Growth Plan, which proposes significant growth for the region. The current strategic plan has been extended from 2004-2009 whilst the review is being undertaken.

6. HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- ***Swabbing of food premises food & hand contact surfaces project***

This joint project with Flinders University and IMVS aims to ascertain cleanliness of food premises following regular cleaning and sanitizing. It is yet another food safety and personal hygiene education opportunity and results follow up has proved it is a worthwhile and effective health promotion exercise. 35 premises were involved and over 180 swabs taken.

- ***Regular Food Safety Presentations*** are conducted free of charge for individuals, commercial and community groups. Seven sessions were presented to 168 food handlers during the reporting period. The presentations included: a PowerPoint slide show, Bug Busters DVD, mime act, UV hand-washing exercise, Q&A encouraged, resources and notes provided and questionnaire completed, including an evaluation. A Certificate of Participation is awarded. Written assessments indicate a well worthwhile exercise in a relaxed, convivial & fun environment. After four years of providing the ongoing & regularly modified presentations, food safety practices & procedures have shown marked improvements across commercial, private & community sectors.

One such presentation was tailored towards migrants with a limited English speaking background.

- Several articles have appeared in the local newspaper 'The Courier' regarding various public and environmental health matters, including immunisation, food safety, notifiable diseases and influenza.
- Ongoing distribution of the 'Stop the Spread' brochure and fridge magnets to individuals and groups
- 'Stop the Spread' Campaign as outlined in Section 4.9

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

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

Ongoing monitoring of bore & rain water for human consumption continues, particularly in towns where SA Water is not available and several food places are located. 35 samples were taken for *E. coli* analysis. Using the available resources from the SA Health website compliments improved water quality.

Council provided the expertise to sample and have analysed several water sources, (dams, rain and bore) at the SAPOL Training Centre. Concerns over safe drinking and cooking water were raised as the centre is an extensive gun use training facility. Lead was detected in some samples. This has resulted in a review of practices to ensure food safety is maintained.

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

No change since previous reporting period.

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

Council's kerbside waste and recycling service has been well received by residents in its first year. The service comprises of a three bin system: a 140L household waste Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB) collected weekly; a 240L recycling MGB collected fortnightly and a 240L green organics MGB collected on alternate fortnights. Under the new system, waste to landfill has reduced from an average of 10kg/week to 8.5kg/week per household. An additional 3.4kg of material is being recycled per week and including green organics recycling, the yield has increased from 2.9 to 6.3 kg/household (as of 1st June 2009). Overall nearly 4000 tonnes of waste was recycled and 41% of all material presented at the kerbside was diverted from landfill.

In addition, residents are able to drop their green waste free of charge at Windmill Hill Transfer Station on designated Green Waste Drop Off days.

A salvage facility for hard waste operates at Council's Windmill Hill Transfer Station. The facility provides for resource recovery and recycling of goods by selling items donated by the public.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

No change since previous reporting period.

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

Council continues to provide its Sharps Program for residents that require this service.

Council's Trade Waste program implemented in 2003 continues into its sixth year with 196 premises registered with a Trade Waste Permit. 82 inspections were conducted during the reporting period.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Complaints regarding air pollution generally arise from inappropriate wood heater use or burning of a domestic nature. While some of these complaints are found to be justified after investigation, others are the result of neighbourly disputes.

These complaints are occasionally investigated in conjunction with the EPA.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Noise complaints are investigated from a public health and EPA perspective. A noise level meter is used to ascertain the level of noise and its potential impact. Some matters are joint EPA investigations.

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

No change on inspection and maintenance programs of parks and reserves since previous reporting period.

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

No change since previous reporting period.

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

No change since previous reporting period.

7.11 Other

No report

8. OTHER

The District Council of Mount Barker was nominated for the Public and Environmental Health Award for 2007 – 2008 (Rural Council Category).

Date this report was / is to be presented to Council

7/09/2009

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.