

City of Tea Tree Gully

571 Montague Road, Modbury SA 5092 Ph: 8397 7444

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)
James Walker	Associate Diploma in Environmental Health	14 years 7 months	27/2/1995
Kerry Keley (full time until 6/2/09)	Associate Diploma in Environmental Health	13 years 8 months	30/3/2005
Alison Creaser	Bachelor of Science Associate Diploma in Environmental Health	15 years 8 months	25/7/2005

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)
Kerry Keley	Associate Diploma in Environmental Health	22.8	13 years 6 months	Commenced part time employment on a trial basis as of 9/2/09

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
N/A				

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
Rick Fitzgerald	Diploma in Public & Environmental Health Diploma in Meat and other foods Plumbers contractors licence	7.6	Approximately 29 years	Commenced 10/9/2008. Still contracted with Council.
Malcolm Menadue	Diploma in Public & Environmental Health Diploma in Meat and Other Foods	7.6	Approximately 37 years	Commenced 23/4/2009. Still contracted with Council.

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.
Contract	Trainee Environmental Health Officer Approximately 15.2 hours	27/5/2009	3	Position not filled as candidates did not meet the selection criteria.

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	2 Part Time and 3 Casual Immunisation nurses (approximately 2 FTE's)
Administration	4 officers (equivalent of approximately 1.5 FTE's)
Other (please specify)	Agency nurses as required

1.2 Staff Training

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

Clandestine Drug Laboratories seminar

Education Sessions for the Public & Environmental (Legionella) Regulations 2008

Regulatory Activities in Councils: Dealing with the Ombudsman seminar

Approval of Biolytix Waste Control Systems workshop

Authorisations, Delegations and Enforcement Training seminar

Serving of Notices and Orders under the Public & Environmental Health Act and Food Act seminar

Basic Plumbing for Environmental Health Officer's

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	57	3	0
17	Control of offensive activities	23	0	0
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	28	0	0
19	Private thoroughfare	0	0	0
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	5	0	0
21	Pollution of water	0	0	0
22	Closure of water supplies	0	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).

The main insanitary condition complaints received by Council relate to inappropriate storage of rubbish or hard material(s) at properties and concerns that it may/has created a habourage for rodents and/or other pests.

Other complaints investigated are offensive odours from dog faeces not being regularly removed on private property and neglected private swimming pools and the concern that they could be/are contributing to mosquito breeding.

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

Council is unable to provide this information, as its statistics collection system does not differentiate between rental or privately owned properties.

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

Part of the definition of insanitary condition under the Act includes "... gives rise to a risk to health" and "... a risk of infestation by rodents or other pests". This definition can be seen as too broad and a notice may be lost at appeal as the Public and Environmental Health Council may feel that insufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate that there is a risk to health or that there is an infestation by rodents or other pests.

A minority of cases are re-offenders who demonstrate poor life skills. There is a lack of government agency support services to assist people with mental health issues or poor life and coping skills.

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.

Section 17 of the Public and Environmental Health Act is difficult to use as it needs to be demonstrated that a risk to health exists or that offensive odours are being emitted. The term offensive is subjective, as what is offensive to one person may not be offensive to another. For example, complaints regarding emissions from wood heaters continue to be received throughout Winter. However, because of the difficulty in using Section 17, Environmental Health Officers use education to try to resolve these complaints.

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

Similarly to last year, water restrictions continue to be an emotive issue within the community. This has been reflected by an increased amount of enquiries from residents on water saving measures such as the reuse of grey water. As a result, Environmental Health Officers provide information from SA Health regarding the correct use of grey water, as well as other recommendations for water conservation, such as the installation of rainwater tanks.

Council continues to develop wetlands to capture storm water which is used to irrigate sports fields and Council reserves.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Regular enquiries are received from residents. In addition, Council's Strategic Plan seeks to reduce the amount of mains water supply that is used for irrigation.

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

Enquiries from residents.

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).

The Council receives HACC funding to provide programs, which support eligible residents within the City of Tea Tree Gully area.

Eligible residents are frail aged people, younger people with a disability and carers who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long-term residential care.

The City of Tea Tree Gully HACC programs include:

- Home Assist program
- Lifestyle Links program
- Respite and Carer Support program
- Indigenous HACC program

The programs are supported by volunteers and contracted staff from various agencies.

The City of Tea Tree Gully HACC programs provide practical assistance and social support for the residents' well being, personal growth and social development, with Cultural and Indigenous needs recognised. There is a clear focus on a collaborative process with other agencies and council to support these groups. Currently the Respite and Carer Support program is working closely with the Italian Benevolent Foundation by supporting a monthly carers group. As a result of the HACC team's commitment, community participation by residents has increased on various Indigenous and mainstream committees and working groups.

The Aboriginal Social Program has now been expanded and provides social options for both older people and younger people with a disability from an indigenous background.

Volunteers are an integral and important part of the HACC team in the provision of community programs. Council recruits, inducts, trains and supports these volunteers and provides opportunities for personal development and learning.

Within the HACC programs the volunteers provide support in the following areas:

- Transport
- Program participation and support
- Individualised assistance such as shopping, doctor's appointments
- Support outings and special functions for the various groups

The HACC programs have a Newsletter called the Tea Tree Panorama that is mailed out each quarter to all eligible residents over the age of 65 years. In the Newsletter there is a continuous flow of information about HACC services as well as various resources such as ARAS, health promotion, cultural activities and general council events/services.

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	9	33	0	0	33
Spa	2	8	0	0	8
Hydrotherapy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Waterslide	1	1	0	0	1
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	12	42	0	0	42

Any Additional Comments

Eleven (11) follow-up inspections were also carried out.

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	15	0	1	1	0
Warm Water System	12	0	0	0	0
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	27	0	1	1	0

Any Additional Comments

Council will be exercising its powers under Regulation 15 (2) of the Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations to require businesses that have cooling towers and/or warm water systems to engage a competent person to carry out an annual inspection of their system.

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	67	30	4
Aerobic System	2	2	0
Other (soakage trenches)	1	0	0
Total	70	32	4

Any Additional Comments

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	235
Number of School Clinics	37
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	1
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	11
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	No report
<i>Total</i>	<i>284</i>

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

Seven (7) infectious and notifiable illnesses were referred from the Communicable Disease Control Branch of SA Health. These referrals requested that an Environmental Health Officer contact the case and discuss control measures such as personal hygiene. Educational material was also provided to the cases.

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

Any Additional Comments

These businesses are due to be inspected in the 2009/10 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	8	Y
Rodents	20	Y
Head Lice	0	N
Flies	0	N
Pigeons	0	N
Scabies	1	N
Cockroaches	0	N
Bees	93 nests destroyed from Council land	Y
European Wasps	251 nests destroyed	Y
Other (please describe)		

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

Ten (10) potential mosquito breeding sites on Council land were monitored between October and March. The sites were inspected thirty four (34) times and sixteen (16) treatments were carried out.

Council engages a pest control contractor to destroy European wasps. Tracking nests is not part of this contract and is not undertaken. A different contractor is engaged to destroy bees nests on Council land.

Council provides a free service for rat control in roof spaces on residential properties. 283 services were provided during the financial year.

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

Routine inspections are not carried out on horse stables, kennels or catteries. Inspections are carried out by General Inspectors on a complaint basis, to ensure facilities are complying with Planning conditions and appropriate standards for the keeping of animals.

Insanitary conditions are referred to the Environmental Health Officers for advice and/or investigation.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Preparation continues to be undertaken as part of business continuity and Emergency Management Planning. Key staff have completed a training course on communication procedures, chain of command and location of emergency facilities such as mobile hospitals.

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

IF NO

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

YES / NO

IF YES

Date commenced

1995

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

YES

(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.

The following displays were set up in the customer contact area of the Civic Centre

Rat Control Information	September 2008
Food Safety Week Information	November 2008
Mosquito Control Information	December 2008

Food Safety training was conducted for staff at the kiosk of Council's operated public swimming pool in October and November of 2008.

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)

In keeping with Council's Strategic Plan for sustainable water use:

- Roof runoff is stored in a rainwater tank that supplies potable water to kitchen stations at the Civic Centre. This water is tested two to three times a year and testing is carried out by the Australian Water Quality Centre (AWQC).
- Stormwater from the Civic Centre is stored in an underground storage tank and is used for toilet flushing only.

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

Council's Drainage Maintenance team has a side entry pit cleaning program in operation. The program involves inspecting and cleaning approximately 8,500 side entry pits each year. As a result of this, the potential for flooding has been significantly reduced.

Council currently has seven (7) wetlands in the area, with an eighth currently under construction. These wetlands are designed to allow cleaning of storm water before entry into the Dry Creek & River Torrens catchment areas. Aquifer Storage and Recharge is also conducted at three (3) wetlands. This serves to reduce Council's reliance on mains water to irrigate sports ovals and reserves. Water quality monitoring is undertaken to ensure that the quality meets Environment Protection Authority licence conditions before injection into the groundwater. The monitoring equipment installed by Council at the Aquifer Storage and Recharge facilities has the ability to send alarms, as well as shut down the system as a safeguard if the water quality goes out of the guidelines set.

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

The City of Tea Tree Gully operates a waste system made up of four components, these include;

- A weekly split garbage/recycling bin collection service
- A monthly green organics collection service
- A phone booking hard refuse collection service
- Envirocare Sunday

Envirocare Sunday

This service operates on the second and last Sunday of each month, January to November and second Sunday in December, at St Agnes Recreation Park, Smart Road, St Agnes from 10am - 2pm.

The service offers free disposal of organic waste, oil, metal, plastic ice-cream containers, unbroken flowerpots, and vehicle batteries.

Residents can also dispose of large household electrical items, such as fridges and freezers, as well as tyres. However, this incorporates a fee.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

Council officers place memos against properties where a previous use may have caused site contamination.

Monitoring of the old Highbury landfill site continues.

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

Council's rapid response team collected syringes from 2 public places. Council also promotes correct sharps disposal within the community and residents are able to use the medical waste collection service at the Modbury Public Hospital.

Council has a register of any asbestos in council owned buildings.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Council does not monitor air quality. This is the jurisdiction of the Environment Protection Authority. However, Environmental Health Officers and General Inspectors investigate complaints such as smoke from woodheaters and dust emissions.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Council does not investigate complaints about noise. This is the jurisdiction of the Environment Protection Authority. However, issues related to planning conditions are investigated.

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

Council has a system based on risk management principles for checking that reserves and facilities are in a fit state prior to use for an event.

Risk Management and Emergency Planning are undertaken for any large-scale community event. First Aid officers and security personnel attend at all large-scale public events.

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

Council continues to develop and refine its Communication and Emergency Management Plan.

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

202 Development applications were assessed for comment.

14 land division applications of properties that are connected to the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) were assessed for comment.

7.11 Other

8. OTHER

Please provide details of any other public & environmental health issues encountered by Council. (eg, complex investigations, participation in major events and festivals, strategic planning and implementation programs etc)

Reducing corporate waste is an important issue for Council. As a result, the following is undertaken at the Civic Centre to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

- All food waste and paper towels are composted.
- All non-rented or leased electronic waste, fluorescent lights and printer cartridges are recycled.

Council also continues to provide drop-off points for residents for recycling of alkaline batteries, printer cartridges, mobile phones and plastic bags.

Council is also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its corporate operations. At least 20% of electricity used at all metered and unmetered sites is accredited greenpower. Energy audits have also been undertaken of Golden Grove and Turrumurra Recreation Centres and the Civic Centre. A water audit has also been undertaken of the Civic Centre with the aim to reduce Council's mains water consumption.

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.