

Unincorporated Areas



Government of South Australia

Department of Health

Regional Services Section
L1 Citi Centre Building
11 Hindmarsh Square
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

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)
CRAIG DARRELL MARTIN	BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	4 Years 2 Months	30/10/2006
PAUL FRANCIS MILLER	BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (ENV. HLTH)	5 Years 4 Months	23/04/2004
MARK LAURENCE NASH	BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (ENV. HLTH)	11 Years 3 Months	18/03/2002
CRAIG MAXWELL STEEL	BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (ENV. HLTH)	39 Years 6 Months	13/04/1981

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.
1 X FTE	37.5	18/07/2009	N/A	NIL

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the *Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987* **(30 June 2009)**

INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT OFFICER	1 (FTE)
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1.2 Staff Training

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

The Department has continued to provide ongoing training and development opportunities in order to maintain a high level of skills and knowledge to fulfil its role in providing a professional service to the Unincorporated Areas. In this period a Departmental Environmental Health Officer (EHO) has completed his Masters in Community Development & Disaster Management and we also have employed an Indigenous Environmental Health Project Officer which has been instrumental in assisting in various functions and programs within the department. The Department ensures its EHOs are competent in all areas in order to carryout their roles in the field and ensures that ongoing education, training and support are always available.

The training and further development undertaken in this reporting period were:

- Wastewater Training Day
- Food Auditors Forum
- Regional Services Team Building Training Day
- Masters in Community Development (Emergency Management)
- 7th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference
- Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities
- Australian Institute of Animal Management Workshop
- Senior First Aid Training
- Advanced 4WD Training
- University of South Australia Pitjantjatjara Language Course
- Drive to Live Collision Avoidance / Car Control Course

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	-	-	-
17	Control of offensive activities	-	-	-
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	1	-	-
19	Private thoroughfare	-	-	-
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	-	-	-
21	Pollution of water	-	-	-
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).

The Departments EHO's have been working in collaboration with Healthhabitat, the Department of Families and Communities and Nganampa Health Council with the Fixing Houses for Better Health Project. This project addresses issues with faulty health hardware (ie. pipe-work, tap ware, fixtures, electrical etc) which is the chief cause leading to insanitary conditions in many Indigenous communities in the Unincorporated Areas.

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

Indigenous housing on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands is burdened by overcrowding. This results in health hardware not able to cope with the excessive loads and usage and coupled with the difficulty of ongoing maintenance results in insanitary conditions with housing in Indigenous communities.

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

The primary impediments to resolving the insanitary conditions are the lack of information relating to which houses and to what maintenance may be required coupled with the continual overcrowding resulting in health hardware failure. Hence, surveys such as Fixing Houses for Better Health highlight the required issues needed to be addressed and assists to document and record the issues with housing in a proactive manner before insanitary conditions arise.

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.

"No Report"

3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

3.1 List the more significant environmental health issues currently facing the local community and what is being done to address them

This department has been providing environmental health services on the Aboriginal Lands in week blocks 'on the ground' for over fifteen years. Services are provided in both a reactive and proactive manner within the framework of public and environmental health legislation. The harsh environmental conditions that prevail in the remote rural areas are a primary impediment to long-term sustainability of adequate services hence the Departments continual assistance and contributions in these already marginalised populations.

The remote rural Aboriginal communities in SA continue to experience the poor health outcomes affected by environmental health determinants such as waste-water control, hygiene and sanitation, water quality, safe food, healthy housing and health hardware.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

The Department responds to requests and timelines set by a variety of external stakeholders including the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Outback Areas Commission Development Trust and Progress Associations, Aboriginal Community Councils and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. Routine inspections in all rural remote and Aboriginal communities in the Unincorporated Area provides opportunity to spend invaluable time in the field. Many issues experienced by people living in these communities are raised on a face to face basis during the time Regional Services EHOs spend in the field. Some issues may be resolved immediately with communication from headquarters, others may require coordination with other government and non government organisations requiring time to return to Adelaide and facilitate. The Department's aim is to provide services that are based on the principles of community capacity building, self determination, equity and justice.

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

Actions should always adequately protect public health and the environment, putting these responsibilities before all other considerations. Prioritisation is based on a risk to health basis.

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).

Fixing Houses for Better Health (FHBH)

Throughout the year Officers from Regional Services have been involved in the FHBH program. The FHBH program is funded by the Commonwealth Government and implemented in every state and territory. This program targets housing in aboriginal communities and aims to better the living conditions of the occupants by restoring and fixing basic commodities such as hot water, electricity and even some basic fabric work such as doors and windows for privacy. The Officers travelled to the APY Lands on several occasions working in conjunction with the Department of Families and Communities and Aboriginal Housing. They conducted surveys on all the Anangu houses in selected communities, and from these surveys data extracted to print job sheets for the tradesmen who were on-site to do the required work. The tradesmen consisted of a builder, plumber and an electrician who would complete the work within the fortnight.

Septic Tank Upgrades

A major program was carried out on the APY Lands to upgrade waste control systems. In the program there were 75 waste control systems upgraded. Each system was inspected, mainly by the FHBH group, before upgrade to determine the state of the system and to enable the correct information to be submitted on a waste control system application. Extensive consultation was required with the contractor and DFC as the funding source to ensure the work being carried out was appropriate and necessary. The septic tank upgrades were carried out in most of the indigenous communities across the lands.

Home and Community Care (HACC)

The HACC program oversees the preparations and supply food to elderly indigenous people on the APY lands. Each community has a kitchen where the food is cooked and delivered by staff. In order to deal with the public health issues, work is being carried out to develop food safety plans to enable compliance with the food safety standards with respect to vulnerable populations. The process of inspecting the facilities has resulted in upgrades being carried out in many of the facilities. Instruction is being given in hand washing and general food safety basics.

Remote Mining Camps

The Department is constantly working with both government and private organisations to achieve better wastewater treatment and disposal methods in remote mining camps.

Handwash Program

The Department has implemented a Handwash Program "Wash the Germs Away...", which consists of presentations, class discussions, worksheets and hands-on activities to schools in Indigenous communities which assists students with understanding the importance of hand-washing in the prevention of illness. This program has been well received by teachers and students and provides a method of helping the children understand the importance of clean hands, encouraging good hand-washing technique and how illness spreads all in a fun environment.

Working Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health (WGATSIEH)

Currently, Regional Services has two Officers that are members on the WGATSIEH conference committee. In the reporting period they have attended several teleconferences and meetings to discuss and organise the 7th National Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference in Kalgoorlie. The Departments Indigenous Environmental Health Project Officer was also required to chair a section of the conference. These Officers are still members of the WGATSIEH committee and attend regular teleconferences on a monthly basis.

Tobacco Survey - Bradley

On the 16th - 24th June 2008, the Indigenous Environmental Health Project Officer in Regional Services conducted an observational field trip throughout the APY Lands to clarify the situation of all the stores, tobacco retailers and workplaces in regards to the *Tobacco Products Regulation Act 1997*. On this trip the Officer observed stores and tobacco retailers with a quick, simple and specific survey that gave an overall picture as to the status of the APY Lands in regards to the legislation. In this survey were simple questions about the store in regards to the legislation such as; is the point of sale all in check? e.g. proper signage, cigarettes being sold to underage peoples and smoking in the workplace.

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	27	44	-	-	44
Spa	-	-	-	-	-
Hydrotherapy	-	-	-	-	-
Waterslide	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-

Total	27	44	-	-	44
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The swimming pools on the APY Lands at Pipalyatjara, Mimili and Amata and at Yalata on the West Coast continue to have benefits for the local population. With the “no school - no pool” policy in place at these four pools, attendance at school has increased. The general wellbeing of the children using the pools has increased. Clinic staff anecdotally report that there are less medical problems such as skin infections, ear, nose and throat problems when the pools are open. The pools have allowed swimming carnivals to be held with all communities being involved. For example, school children from Watarru have made the 280km round trip to Pipalyatjara to participate in swimming lessons with a variety of lifesaving levels being achieved. The Department continued to provide routine inspections of public swimming pools and worked with pool owners/operators to maintain legislative compliance throughout the Unincorporated Areas. The Department has representation on the APY Swimming Pool Committee. This committee oversees the swimming pools located on the APY Lands and at Yalata Community on the Far West Coast.

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	22	-	-	-	-
Warm Water System	4	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26	-	-	-	-

Due to the implementation of the *Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008* this office has received 26 applications for registration of High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (HRMWS) and is currently awaiting further applications. The department is in the process of finalising its arrangements for routine inspections.

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	150	170	-
Aerobic System	5	5	-
Total	155	175	-

The Department continues to work with a variety of stakeholders from the enquiry stage through to the construction to ensure legislative compliance. The Department has a comprehensive list of all issues pertaining to waste-water management consisting of application forms, system requirements and approved product listings located on its website at:

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/environ-health-index.htm>

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	0
Number of School Clinics	0
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	0
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	0
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>

Clinic types in the above categories are not routinely offered in the Unincorporated Areas, due to transient and fluctuating populations. These areas focus on general Health Clinics to incorporate a wide range of health services, including Immunisations. Other organisations such as The Royal Flying Doctor Service are also involved in the administration of immunisations through the various Health Clinics in these areas.

National Immunisation Programs

Childhood, Adolescent and Adult immunisation are offered in various locations within the Unincorporated Areas. The Nganampa Health Council, Oak Valley, Leigh Creek and Tullawon Health Service offer regular opportunistic immunisation to all children in these areas, as well as catch up immunisations to children who may be over due.

The Nganampa Health Council has regular Health Clinics, in 7 out of 9 communities. All vaccinations recommended on the current National Immunisation Program are offered to all residents of these communities, including annual Influenza vaccinations for all eligible groups. The Health Clinics can also offer immunisations to those people in the community who require additional vaccines, recommended for Occupational Health and Safety reasons, i.e. visiting teachers requiring Hepatitis A and B or Influenza immunisation.

Immunisation Coverage <7 years of age

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) coverage rates measure the Immunisation status of children in specific cohorts (12-<15 months, 24-<27 months and 60-<63 months). Reports from June 2009 indicate coverage rates in some post code areas of the unincorporated areas to be almost 100%. Statistics were not available for every age group in each post code area and some areas indicate lower rates in the 60-<63 month cohort which is indicative of a State and National trend, particularly in Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Vaccination Program

Nganampa Health continues to offer a quality immunisation program, resulting in a sustained rate of 96% childhood immunisation coverage throughout the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands. The use of the Communicare data system allows all age groups to have their immunisation history easily identified. Communicare also enables a recall system to be in place to highlight immunisations which may be due or overdue.

School Vaccination Program

The School Based Immunisation Program provides funded vaccines for students in Years 8 and 9 in 2008 and 2009 as part of an on going program. In Year 8 students (aged 13-14 years of age) receive Hepatitis B vaccine, Varicella vaccine and in addition the girls are offered Gardasil Vaccine. In Year 9, all students are immunised for Boostrix - a diphtheria,

tetanus and pertussis booster. These vaccines are not offered in structured School Clinics, but are provided within the standard immunisation/health clinics. This ensures all eligible children within a transient population, receive the necessary vaccines. To date, statistics provided by Nganampa Health Service indicate a total of 44 students received School Based Immunisation Program vaccines in 2009.

Immunisations can also be accessed through the PBS 100 Scheme, a Commonwealth Funded Program. Statistics on the number of vaccines supplied through this scheme need to be accessed at a Commonwealth level.

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

Unincorporated Areas Notifications between 1/07/2008 and 30/06/2009

Arbovirus	2
Campylobacter	4
Cryptosporidiosis	2
Haemophilus influenzae	1
Mumps	5
Pertussis	2
Pneumococcal	4
Rotavirus	2
Salmonella	6
Shigella	11
STEC / HUS / TTP	1
Varicella virus	2
TOTAL	42

As the result of notification of Shigella infection, inspections have been carried out in a community on the APY Lands. Inspections have resulted in the need for houses to be thoroughly cleaned with the homemaker centre being involved as well as the Environmental Health Workers in the community. The use of the homemaker centre and the Environmental Health Workers has resulted in an increased knowledge of disease control with hand washing procedures as part of the program.

4.6 Monitoring of Hairdressing, Beauty & Skin Penetration businesses

Type of Facility	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Tattoo Parlours & Body Piercing	-	-	-	-	-
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake	-	-	-	-	-

skin penetration)					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There are no hairdressing, beauty & skin penetration businesses located in the Unincorporated Areas and have taken no proposals in establishing such businesses. The Department has a comprehensive list of all issues pertaining to hairdressing, beauty and skin penetration located on its website at:

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/environ-health-index.htm>

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	-	-
Rodents	-	-
Head Lice	-	-
Flies	-	-
Pigeons	-	-
Scabies	-	-
Cockroaches	-	-
Bees	-	-
European Wasps	-	-
Other (please describe)	-	-

The Department currently monitors a large proportion of the Unincorporated Area and comments accordingly to various stakeholders. Departmental EHOs regularly distribute "Fight the Bite" information, posters and fact sheets to a variety of community organisations, clinics and remote premises.

The ingress and harbourage of vermin, flies, cockroaches and other pests continue to be a significant focus for housing and food premises in remote areas. Continued monitoring of businesses to have adequate pest control measures in place and the continued support in new housing designs that incorporate pest resistant features is strongly followed. The Department has a comprehensive list of all issues pertaining to public health pests located on its website at:

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/environ-health-index.htm>

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

Dog Health programs were undertaken by various Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations. The major focus of the dog program, apart from making the dogs healthier and controlling numbers is to minimise risk of dog to human infection by separating puppies from small children and using structural methods such as fencing of playgrounds to keep dogs out. Regional Services EHOs supported community based IEHWs in assisting visiting vets to implement zoonotic parasitic treatments, fertility control and Avomec treatment. During the reporting period a Departmental Officer has taken part in the Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities & the Australian Institute of Animal Management Workshop conducted in the Northern Territory.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

The Department of Health has continually updated its operational planning for the management of Pandemic Influenza in a working document titled – *Pandemic Influenza – A Summary of Health’s Operational Plan*. This plan focuses on South Australian specific issues and it has been identified that there is major potential for control of Pandemic Influenza with the implementation of effective containment strategies and the South Australian plan focuses on ways to achieve containment as well as management during a maintenance phase.

Many of the operational plans are influenced by Australian Government decision making processes and Committees determining the appropriate Australia wide actions. The *Pandemic Influenza – a Summary of Health’s Operational Plan* is located on its website at: <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/pandemicinfluenza/>

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 Date commenced 2007
Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports? YES

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.

YES – In 2007, the Department of Health introduced the SA Health Public Health Directorate Strategic Plan 2007 – 2009. This Public Health Strategic Plan is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting good health and preventing illness and injury by focussing on health promotion and early intervention. It will ensure that SA Health works with other government agencies and the community to address the environmental, socioeconomic, and biological determinants of health and to achieve equitable health outcomes for all South Australians.

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 Department has implemented a Handwash Program “Wash the Germs Away...”, which consists of presentations, class discussions, worksheets and hands-on activities to schools in Indigenous communities which assists students with understanding the importance of hand-washing in the prevention of illness. This program has been well received by teachers and students and provides a method of helping the children understand the importance of clean hands, encouraging good hand-washing technique and how illness spreads all in a fun environment.

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)

There are several outback communities that are declared to have non-potable water supplies. With these communities the Department has identified mechanisms to ensure water was suitable for drinking and food premises or alternatively assisted in the delivery of advice regarding the non-potability of supplies. The Department also liaised with SA Water regarding the small supplies which it manages on behalf of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. No further outback communities have been declared non-potable in this reporting period.

Regional Services EHO's in conjunction with Indigenous Environmental Health Workers from Ceduna Koonibba Aboriginal Health Service conduct water quality tests in a number of rainwater tanks in the Ceduna and Koonibba area to ensure water is suitable for drinking. If positive results are found corrective remedial action is undertaken and communicated back to all relevant parties.

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

The Department provided advice and assistance as necessary to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Services and other external stakeholders with respect to development proposals and assessed risks to waterways and water catchments. Meetings were held onsite when any risk was identified and assessments made in consultation with Aboriginal traditional land owners.

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

The Department continued to support Anangu Pitjantjatjara Services and other external stakeholders in its efforts to manage and maintain landfill sites, general refuse, biosolid disposal sites and recycle initiatives and has resulted in the formation of the APY Waste Management Project. In other Unincorporated Areas the Department has received no complaints in this reporting period.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

The Department works in conjunction with the EPA and provides advice regarding health issues associated with site contamination and potential contamination across the State.

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

Sharps and infectious wastes continued to be transported out of the Unincorporated Areas for disposal at appropriately licensed disposal sites. Clinics owned and operated by Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations maintained individual monitoring and control of hazardous substances.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Regional Services EHOs respond to complaints received pertaining to air quality although none were received in this reporting period.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Regional Services EHOs respond to complaints received pertaining to noise complaints although none were received in this reporting period.

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

The Department inspects a variety of recreational facilities including caravan parks, remote campsites, coastal camp grounds and remote toilet facilities in the Unincorporated Area. The Department ensures that all the facilities are maintained and provide adequate sanitation for all users. One such remote campsite is utilised for a project named Operation Flinders which is a charitable organisation that runs an adventure program for young offenders and young people at risk.

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

During this reporting period, no emergency planning activities occurred.

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

All land division and development proposals within the Unincorporated Areas were assessed by Regional Services EHOs who provided health impact comments to the Development Assessment Commission (DAC). In total, 51 applications were received and processed for the Unincorporated Areas.

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)

There are a number of annual events such as Speed Week, Nonning Gymkhana, SA Variety Bash and The Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive to name a few that occur in the Unincorporated Areas. The Department liaises and provides guidance to the organisers of these events to ensure all the appropriate issues regarding food safety and wastewater management provisions are addressed.

The Australian Army has started the planning process for a community assistance program to be conducted at Pukatja Community in the APY Lands. This program will undertake infrastructure projects such as house building / repairs and other community improvements. The camp will be based in the Pukatja area but away from the main community. The program works with local people being trained to undertake proposed tasks. Consultation is being undertaken with the department.

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.