

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY

12 May 2020

non-legislative

## PURPOSE

This Environmental Health Management Policy (the Policy) outlines the objectives, principles, and approach to managing environmental health matters in the City of Adelaide (CoA) area.

The Policy supplements the CoA Regional Public Health Plan and sets out:

- Environmental health responsibilities at Commonwealth, State, and Local Government level;
- Principles for environmental health management in the CoA area; and
- Priorities for dealing with environmental health matters in the CoA area.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Environmental health is the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling, and preventing factors in the environment that can potentially adversely affect the health of present and future generations<sup>1</sup>. Managing environmental health is the responsibility of all community members, businesses, and all tiers of government in Australia.

### Federal

The National Environmental Health Council (enHealth) is the peak national environmental health advisory group. enHealth consists of members of relevant Commonwealth, State, and Territory health departments, the New Zealand Ministry of Health, and the National Health and Medical Research Council. EnHealth provides national leadership on environmental health issues and implements the Australian National Environmental Health Strategy.

### State

The South Australian Department of Health and Wellbeing is the primary State Government department responsible for coordinating environmental health policy, projects, and legislation in South Australia.

### Local

Councils have statutory responsibilities for promoting standards of environmental health within their area through the administration of legislation and provision of services and community education initiatives.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation

## PRINCIPLES

CoA work directly with our community to prevent and reduce incidences of disease, illness, and harm, by undertaking activities which support a healthy environment for all

community members. In dealing with environmental health matters, CoA provide these services by:

- Undertaking activities and services in order of risk-based priority as detailed in Table A - Order of Priority
- Balancing the needs of the built environment and economic development with the health of our community
- Creating and maintaining an environment that promotes good public health outcomes by assessing and controlling factors that will prevent and reduce the incidence of disease, illness, or harm in our community
- Working in collaboration with State Government and industry to create and implement initiatives which aim to improve levels of voluntary compliance with relevant legislative obligations
- Providing access to educational materials for our community and industry to increase understanding of relevant legislative obligations
- Developing and maintaining standard operating procedures that support consistent and effective routine monitoring, management of complaints, and identification of emerging issues

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### OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

#### related documents

- Community Safety & Health Enforcement Guidelines ACC2019/15637

#### relevant legislation

- *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*
- *Food Act 2001*
- *Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*

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### GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

**Body Piercing Studio:** an establishment in which body piercing is carried out professionally.

**Communicable Disease:** Includes food-borne diseases, vaccine preventable diseases, vector-borne diseases, zoonotic infections, HIV/AIDS related diseases and quarantinable diseases. Communicable diseases are notifiable under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.

**Cooling Tower:** Devices designed to cool water and dissipate heat to the environment and are often associated with air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

**Environmental Health:** Aspects of human health, including quality of life that are determined by physical, chemical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially adversely affect the health of present and future generations.

**Food Business:** a business, enterprise or activity (other than primary food production) that involves:

- The handling of food intended for sale; or
- The sale of food.

Food business includes businesses that sell prepared, freshly prepared, and packaged food or any other type of food.

**Hairdresser:** an establishment in which hairdressing is carried out professionally

**Health:** a state of complete physical, social and mental wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity - The World Health Organisation.

**High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (HRMWS):** Air conditioning plants (such as cooling towers) or warm water distribution systems.

**Insanitary Condition:** premises are in an insanitary condition if:

- the condition of the premises gives rise to a risk to health; or
- the premises are so filthy or neglected that there is a risk of infestation by rodents or
- other pests; or
- the condition of the premises is such as to cause justified offence to the owner of any land in the vicinity; or
- offensive material or odours are emitted from the premises; or
- the premises are for some other reason justifiably declared by the authority to be in an insanitary condition.

**SA Health:** the State Government Department for Health and Wellbeing

**Supported Residential Facility:** a facility at which, for monetary or other consideration (whether or not for profit), residential accommodation is provided or offered together with personal care services (other than for members of the immediate family of the proprietor of the facility).

**Swimming Pool and Spa:** a publicly available swimming pool or spa, regardless of whether it is available to only a subset of the public with or without the payment of money.

**Tattoo Parlour:** an establishment in which tattooing is carried out professionally.

**Vector:** a vector is any organism capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including mosquitoes, flies, fleas, cockroaches, or other insects and ticks, mites, or rodents.

**Vermin:** small animals and insects that can be harmful and are difficult to control when they appear in large numbers.

**Wastewater:** an on-site wastewater system or a community wastewater management system.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of Council's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every **3** years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **2023**.

**Review history:**

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2020/2262	Council	12 May 2020	Original document

**contact:**

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**Table A: Order of Priority**

Priority Category	Description	Examples of activities / matters included within each priority category
Priority 1	Legislative requirements (e.g. services delivery or inspection frequency)	Provision of immunisation services Annual inspection and monitoring (conducted or audited by CoA) of HRWMS (cooling towers and warm water systems) Annual reporting to SA Health under <i>Food Act 2001</i> and <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>
	Catastrophic inherent risk to public safety	Monitoring of Food Safety Plan audits for food businesses serving high risk foods to vulnerable populations
Priority 2	High inherent risk to public safety	Inspection and monitoring of tattoo parlours Inspection and monitoring of body piercing studios Inspection and monitoring of food businesses in line with SA Health risk classification and associated frequency Inspection and monitoring of swimming pools and spas Inspection and monitoring of wastewater and contaminated land
Priority 3	Medium inherent risk to public safety	Investigation of customer requests (e.g. instance of communicable disease, reported insanitary conditions etc.) Initial assessment of development applications Investigation of non-commercial insanitary condition e.g. severe domestic squalor Inspection and monitoring of supported residential facilities Education and health promotion (general)
Priority 4	Low inherent risk to public safety	Investigation of hoarding and squalor (not severe) Investigation of vermin and vector reports in commercial and private premises
Priority 5	Very low risk to public safety	Inspection and monitoring of hairdressers