

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL 2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT (JULY 2014 – JUNE 2016)

Pursuant to Division 2, section 23 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act), the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) must prepare a written report every two years about:

- a) public health trends, activities and indicators in South Australia; and
- b) the implementation of the State Public Health Plan; and
- c) the administration of the Act.

As prescribed under section 31 of the Act, the SAPHC are to assist and advise the CPHO in relation to the preparation of the biennial CPHO Report.

During the reporting period, the South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC) assisted and provided advice on the preparation of the third CPHO Report, in particular:

- Public health issues that the SAPHC see as important to include in the CPHO Report.
- Proposed structure
- Proposed case studies and areas of interest
- Recommendations on the trending issues from the last CPHO Report to explore further
- Indicators that the SAPHC would like to see reported on

The CPHO Report comprised of four linked parts:


- Protect, Prevent, Improve, Inform – The Chief Public Health Officer's Report 2014-16
- The Data Compendium (contains statistical tables, figures and maps and provides definitions, terminology and further information on data sources and analysis)
- The Compendium of Public Health Action (provides summaries of many case studies and feature stories and showcases the breadth of public health action in South Australia)
- An Interactive Atlas (clicking on the links throughout the CPHO Report will take you to an interactive map)

The CPHO Report can be found on the [SA Health website](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2017

Public Health Week 2017 (PHW 2017) was held from Monday, 3 April 2017 to Friday, 7 April 2017. This week was chosen as it aligned with the World Health Organization's World Health Day which was held on 7 April 2017.

The theme of PHW 2017 was 'Step Up. Be Healthy' and focused on the physical as well as the metaphorical steps that individuals and communities can take to improve wellbeing and build a healthier community for all South Australians.



Evaluation of PHW 2017 showed that it was successful in raising awareness about the significant and often behind the scenes role public health plays on a daily basis.

The success of PHW 2017 was also supported by the following:

- Over 35,000 public health resources were distributed to the community through local councils and Public Health Week stalls in Rundle Mall and the Adelaide Railway Station.
- There were over 55,000 views of the Public Health Week animation via Facebook.
- Facebook posts throughout PHW 2017 reached an average audience of over 42,900 people with the largest reach for a single post being 238,000.
- Over 500 people visited the Rundle Mall stall and took away information about a broad range of public health resources.

The SAPHC was the governing body for the planning of PHW 2017.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH – EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS

The Minister for Health – Excellence in Public Health Awards were open to all local councils in South Australia. There was an award for a metropolitan council and a regional council.

Seventeen applications were received for the Minister for Health – Excellence in Public Health Awards. The quality and level of innovation displayed in the applications received were impressive.

The Coorong District Council was the Regional Winner and the City of Marion was the Metropolitan Winner.

Two members from the SAPHC were on the judging panel.

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES


Part 5 of the Act provides for the Minister to prepare and maintain policies (to be called *State Public Health Policies*) that relate to any area of public health in the State. Pursuant to section 54 of the Act, the Minister must, in relation to any proposal to create or amend a State Public Health Policy:

- a) prepare a draft of the proposal;
- b) take reasonable steps to consult with SAPHC, the Local Government Association, and any other person or body considered relevant by the Minister, in relation to the proposal; and
- c) by public notice, give notice of the place or places at which copies of the draft are available (without charge) and purchase and invite interested persons to make written representations on the proposal within a period specified by the Minister.

During the reporting period, the SAPHC were consulted on the following State Public Health Policies.

- **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (SEVERE DOMESTIC SQUALOR) POLICY 2013 AND ASSOCIATED GUIDELINE**

A review of the South Australian Public Health (Severe Domestic Squalor) Policy 2013 (the Policy) was overseen by the SAPHC.



Released in 2013, the Policy and associated guideline *A Foot in the Door – Stepping Towards solutions to resolve incidents of severe domestic squalor in South Australia* (the Guideline) provide a framework for the assessment and management of cases of severe domestic squalor in South Australia. The review centred on the evaluation of the utility of the Policy and Guideline by local government environmental health officers and focused on how well they support authorities in addressing issues of severe domestic squalor.

The findings of the review demonstrated that the Policy is considered to be an effective tool in supporting public health action in situations of severe domestic squalor, and that environmental health officers are generally satisfied with the content and format of the Guideline. It did however highlight the ongoing challenges in relation to securing interagency participation in managing the broader mental health and social challenges that are often associated with cases of severe domestic squalor. These issues will be further considered when the Policy and guideline are subject to a comprehensive review in future.

- **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (CLANDESTINE DRUG LABORATORIES) POLICY 2016 AND ASSOCIATED GUIDELINE**


Clandestine laboratories (clan labs) are used for the manufacture of illicit drugs such as methamphetamine and the awareness and detection of clan labs has increased nationally during the past decade. Environmental contamination is expected to be present in premises used as clan labs and this represents a serious risk to public health if not assessed and, where required, remediated.

The 'South Australian Public Health (Clandestine Drug Laboratories) Policy 2016' (the Policy) and the accompanying '*Practice Guideline for the Management of Clandestine Drug Laboratories under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011*' (the Practice Guideline) were released in late 2016 to assist public health authorities ensure that properties used as clandestine drug laboratories do not present a risk to public health. During the development of the Policy and Practice Guideline comprehensive consultation was conducted with a number agencies including the SAPHC. Whilst in its infancy, feedback from public health authorities suggests the Policy and Practice Guideline are providing the mechanisms to successfully reduce the public health risks associated with clan labs.

PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW PANEL

As prescribed in section 92 of the Act, a notice may be issued by a relevant authority to secure compliance with the General Duty under section 56 of the Act.

A person to whom a notice has been issued may apply for a review of the notice under section 95 of the Act. The review is to the Public Health Review Panel (the Review Panel) constituted of the CPHO (who will be the presiding member) and two members of the South Australian Public Health Council selected by the CPHO. The CPHO may select any other person or persons in order to provide additional expertise on the panel.



During the reporting period, one application for review of a notice issued by a relevant authority under section 92(1) of the Act to secure compliance with the general duty under section 56 of the Act was received. The notice, issued by a local council was in relation to tenanted premises being used for the manufacture of illicit drugs. The local council was of the opinion that until it could be 'validated' that the premise was safe, the premise was not to be lived in and access restricted.

With regard to section 95(6) of the Act, the review was conducted as a full review of the matter. The Review Panel considered all the information put before it by both parties and determined whether the requirement of the notice had merit and whether the terms of the notice were appropriate.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

The first State Public Health Plan "South Australia, A better place to live" (2013) (the State Plan) informs the specific steps aimed at building the public health system. One of the system building actions proposed in the State Plan was to develop a coherent dataset of public health indicators (which are meaningful and relevant to local government and Public Health Partner Authorities) to aid in public health planning, monitoring and evaluation, and for the development of an evidence base for effective public health interventions. The CPHO is also required under section 23 of the Act to report on public health trends, activities and indicators in South Australia.

SA Health sought advice from the SAPHC throughout the development of the South Australian Public Health Indicators Framework (the Framework).

The proposed Framework was sent out for public consultation and feedback was received across April to July 2017. Comments were sought from public health stakeholders, and any interested agencies or individuals.

Outside of the reporting period, a Public Consultation Feedback Summary document has been prepared. It is anticipated that an amended Framework will be publicly released in October 2017.