



**Government
of South Australia**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH
COUNCIL
2018-19 Annual Report**

South Australian Public Health Council
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To:

Hon Stephen Wade M.L.C.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the South Australian Public Health Council by:

Associate Professor Nicola Spurrier

Presiding Member, South Australian Public Health Council

Date 5/10/2019

Signature 

From the Presiding Member



During 2018-19, Professor Paddy Phillips held the position of Chief Public Health Officer and Presiding Member of the South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC). Professor Phillips resigned from the position of Chief Public Health Officer and Presiding Member of the SAPHC effective from 26 August 2019. I thank Professor Phillips for his service to the state of South Australia as both Chief Public Health Officer and Presiding Member of the SAPHC.

His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed me as the Chief Public Health Officer on 29 August 2019. As the Chief Public Health Officer, I am also *ex officio* the Presiding Member of the SAPHC as provided for in Section 27 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act). As Presiding Member of the SAPHC, I have pleasure in presenting the SAPHC Annual Report for 2018-19. This is the eighth annual report of the SAPHC.

The SAPHC is established under Section 26 of the Act. The SAPHC was formed on the commencement of the Act on 23 February 2012 and held its augural meeting on 30 April 2012.

During my appointment as Presiding Member of the SAPHC, I look forward to working with the dedicated appointed members to assist me to meet my statutory obligations under Section 21 of the Act.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Spurrier'.

Assoc Professor Nicola Spurrier

Presiding Member

South Australian Public Health Council

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Overview: about the South Australian Public Health Council

Our Purpose

Pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, the role of the SAPHC is to ensure the Chief Public Health Officer meets their statutory obligations by providing assistance and advice about a broad range of public health related matters.

Our organisational structure

The Chief Public Health Officer *ex officio* (who will be the presiding member); and

- *9 other members appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister, of whom-*
 - *2 must have experience in local government selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by the LGA; and*
 - *1 must have qualifications in public health and experience in the administration of public health at the local government level selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Incorporated; and*
 - *2 must be persons nominated by the Minister who have qualifications in public health; and*
 - *1 must have experience in the administration of environment protection laws or strategies or in environmental management, selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by the Presiding Member of the Board of the Environment Protection Authority; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in the field of health promotion; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in the prevention and control of communicable diseases; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in non-government community sector activities relevant to public health.*

Changes to the South Australian Public Health Council

During 2018-19, there were the following changes to our organisational structure:

- On 16 August 2018, His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed/re-appointed the following members of the SAPHC:
 - Gary Mavrinac (re-appointed) under Section 27(1)(b)(i) of the Act
 - Helen Marshall (re-appointed) under Section 27(1)(b)(iii) of the Act
 - Imelda Lynch (appointed) under Section 27(1)(b)(v) of the Act.
- These appointments were as a result of the terms of two members expiring and the resignation of one member.

- On 28 February 2019, His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed Adriana Milazzo under Section 27(1)(b)(vi) of the Act.
- This appointment was as a result of a resignation of a member.

Our Minister



Hon Stephen Wade MLC is the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in South Australia.

The Minister oversees health, wellbeing, mental health, ageing well, substance abuse and suicide prevention.

Pursuant to Division 2, Section 20 of the Act, the appointment to the position of Chief Public Health Officer is made by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council on the recommendation of the Hon Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Members of the SAPHC are appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing as outlined in Section 27 of the Act.

South Australian Public Health Council performance

Objectives and performance

The key objective of the SAPHC is to assist and advise the Chief Public Health Officer in relation to:

- The protection and promotion of public health.
- The development and maintenance of a system of strategic planning for public health at the local, regional and state-wide levels.
- The development of health plans.
- Strategies to ensure that a sufficiently trained and skilled workforce is in place for the purposes of the Act.
- Programs to promote public health research in the State.
- The preparation of the biennial Chief Public Health Officer's Report.
- The setting of standards and qualifications for authorised officers.
- Any other functions assigned to the SAPHC by the Minister or the Chief Public Health Officer.

The SAPHC objectives support the State objective (better services - better prevention for a healthy South Australia).

| SAPHC objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|---|---|
| Assist in meeting statutory obligations under the Act by providing advice to the Chief Public Health Officer in order to respond to requests relating to public health matters. | The Chief Public Health Officer's Report 2016-2018 was released on 10 December 2018. The Report describes the state of public health for South Australia including the protection of health, prevention and control of communicable disease and non-communicable disease, the promotion of wellbeing and risk factors to population health and wellbeing. | A copy of the Report can be found here . |
| Promote public health within the State by raising awareness through public health programs and social media. | The Minister for Health – Excellence in Public Health Awards. Interest shown by local councils in entering innovative initiatives that resulted in positive public health outcomes for the community. | Local council award winners use the prize to further progress public health initiatives in their local council. |

Employment opportunity programs

| Program name | Performance |
|---|---|
| <p>The member on the Council who is employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council participate in the Department's employment opportunity programs</p> | <p>The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au</p> |

Agency performance management and development systems

| Performance management and development system | Performance |
|---|---|
| <p>The member on the Council who is employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council participate in the Department's performance management and development system</p> | <p>The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au</p> |

Work health, safety and return to work programs

| Program name | Performance |
|---|--|
| The member on the Council who is employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council participate in the Department's work, health, safety and return to work programs as appropriate. | The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au |

| Workplace injury claims | Current year 2018-19 | Past year 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total new workplace injury claims | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Seriously injured workers* | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

| Work health and safety regulations | Current year 2018-19 | Past year 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

| Return to work costs** | Current year 2018-19 | Past year 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Income support payments – gross (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

***before third party recovery*

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

Executive employment in the agency

| Executive classification | Number of executives |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SAES 2 Level | 1 |

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Nil to Report

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

| Consultancies | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined | | 0 |

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

| Consultancies | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| All consultancies above \$10,000 each – combined | | \$ 0 |
| | Total | \$ 0 |

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined | | \$ 0 |

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| All contractors above \$10,000 each – combined | | \$ 0 |

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Risk management

Nil to Report

Fraud detected in the agency

| Category/nature of fraud | Number of instances |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Nil to Report | 0 |

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

N/A

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

Whistle-blowers disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*:

0

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|--|---|
| <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i> | Part 3—Administration Division 3—South Australian Public Health Council 35-Annual Report (1) SAPHC must, on or before 31 October in each year, provide to the Minister a report on its activities for the financial year ending the preceding 30 June. |

Chief Public Health Officer's Report

Pursuant to Section 23 of the Act, the Chief Public Health Officer is required to prepare a written report every two years about:

- Public health trends, activities and indicators in South Australia
- The implementation of the State Public Health Plan
- The administration of this Act.

The Chief Public Health Officer's Report 2016-2018 is the fourth Chief Public Health Officer's report (CPHO report) and was released in December 2018. In the report, the CPHO highlighted the following significant achievements in public health:

- While smoking prevalence can fluctuate on a year-to-year basis, a general downward trend was evident over time for all groups and notably, South Australia has one of the lowest daily smoking rates among Aboriginal adults aged 18 years and over in Australia.
- In addition, 16% of South Australians aged 15 years and over reported drinking at levels that put them at risk of disease or injury over a lifetime, this is a significant decrease since 2011.
- South Australia has the highest participation rates in Australia for the national bowel cancer screening, breast screening and cervical screening programs.
- In 2017, the South Australian Public Health Indicator Framework was released. This highly consulted framework provides us with a solid scaffolding to be able to track how we are progressing now and into the future.
- Strengthened partnerships in public health action have delivered exciting initiatives and actions, many have arisen from the State Public Health Plan and local council's regional public health plans, with several showcased throughout this Report.

The CPHO Report was prepared during the 2018-19 reporting period. Pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, one of the functions of the SAPHC is to assist and advise the Chief Public Health Officer in the preparation of the biennial report.

State Public Health Plan 2019-2024

During 2018-19, the summary of findings report from the consultation on the summary framework for the draft State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 (the Plan) was completed.

The summary framework outlined and explained the broad architecture of the Plan, including its vision, goals, priorities, deliverable areas and indicators.

The recommendations from consultation on the summary framework were used to inform the development of the Plan.

Members of the SAPHC provided feedback on the summary framework and the draft Plan.

The [State Public Health Plan 2019-2024](#) was released on 12 December 2018.

Public Health Panel Review

A person who has been issued with a notice by a relevant authority under Section 92(1)(a) of the Act to secure compliance with the General Duty under Section 56 of the Act may apply for a review of the notice issued.

Pursuant to Section 95(3) of the Act, the review will be to the Public Health Review Panel and is constituted of the Chief Public Health Officer (who will be the Presiding Member) and two members of the SAPHC selected by the Chief Public Health Officer. The Chief Public Health Officer may select any other person or persons in order to provide additional expertise to the panel.

During 2018-19, no applications for a review to the Public Health Review Panel pursuant to Section 95 of the Act were received.

This may be due in part to the development of the [South Australian Public Health Severe Domestic Squalor Policy](#) and [Guideline](#). The aim of the Guideline (A Foot in the Door – Stepping towards solutions to resolve incidents of severe domestic squalor in South Australia) is to support local government environmental health officers understand, assess and manage cases of severe domestic squalor in South Australia. Under the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987* which was replaced by the Act, a majority of the appeals brought before the Review Committee were for domestic squalor.

Public Health Week 2019

The inaugural South Australian Public Health Week (2016 PHW) was endorsed by the SAPHC and held from 4 to 8 April 2016. The aim of 2016 PHW was to raise

awareness about the significant but often unseen role that public health plays on a daily basis in protecting health, preventing illness and promoting wellbeing.

During 2018-19, the third PHW (2019 PHW) took place from 8 to 12 April 2019 and aligned with World Health Day on 7 April 2019. The 2019 PHW focussed on encouraging people to improve their health and the health of their community. It built on the success of previous PHW initiatives to increase public awareness and action, by delivering simple, engaging messages about steps that individuals and communities can take to improve wellbeing, focused on the theme '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. The '5 Ways to Wellbeing' were Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Give.

Local council partnered with SA Health to deliver the 2019 PHW statewide activities as well as host their own initiatives.

The 2019 PHW supported the State strategic priorities (better services and lower cost) through educating the community about public health and improving their own health.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Awards

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Awards (the 2019 Awards) was endorsed in 2016 by the SAPHC. The Awards recognise local councils in South Australia that have made outstanding contributions to public health outcomes for their communities. The Awards are run annually and provide an opportunity for local councils to elevate their profile and showcase public health achievements or actions with key stakeholders and the community.

The 2019 Awards, open to all local councils in South Australia, were in two categories:

- Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Award – Metropolitan Council
- Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Award – Regional Council

The Winners of the 2019 Awards were:

- Regional Winner: Mid Murray Council, for the Fresh Frenzy Project.
- Metropolitan Winner: City of Playford, for the Elizabeth Grove Placed Based Community Development Project.

The 2019 Award winners received a monetary prize of \$3,000 which will be used to progress public health initiatives within their local council. The Award winner is required to submit a report to SA Health within six months of receiving the monetary prize which details how the funds have been used to progress public health initiatives.

Members of the SAPHC offered their time to be on the Judging Panel for these Awards. Members of the SAPHC who were on the Judging Panel provided feedback

to the organiser of the awards on how to improve the quality of the submissions and the judging of the submissions.

The Awards support the State strategic priorities through local councils progressing public health initiatives.

Wellbeing SA

The State Government Policy Platforms: *Better Prevention for a Healthy South Australia* and *Targeted Health Prevention* refers to the establishment of Wellbeing SA as a prevention, health promotion and primary health care agency within SA Health (but separate to hospitals and health services) and will:

- Advocate for and purchase services in public health and health promotion
- Include a health promotion branch and focus on preventing health issues before they arise
- Maximise partnerships for prevention across South Australia through networks which embrace all Government Departments, the Commonwealth Government, primary health networks, local councils, Local Health Networks, and non-government organisations.

Consultation was undertaken with internal and external stakeholders to seek their feedback on the future role, functions and structure of the Wellbeing SA agency.

Three functional design workshops were held with the aim to seek input from stakeholders to develop:

- A vision and rationale for Wellbeing SA
- Principles underpinning Wellbeing SA
- Its potential scope and functions.

Members of the SAPHC attended the Wellbeing SA workshop on 11 December 2018.

A summary paper was developed to summarise the feedback gathered from the function design workshops. The summary paper will assist with informing future consultation and engagement processes and workshops.

Public Health Emergency Management Plan Review

The Public Health Emergency Management Plan (the PHEMP) is a requirement of the Act and outlines the responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms to minimise, or if they occur, manage and recover from, declared or undeclared public health incidents or emergencies within South Australia.

The PHEMP sets out that the PHEMP will be reviewed every two years. A Working Group was established to undertake the review and to ensure the PHEMP meets the needs of State and Local Governments, public health practitioners and communities.

Members of the SAPHC offered their time to be on the PHEMP Working Group.

During 2018-19, the PHEMP review was completed and a final draft made available for consultation. The SAPHC provided feedback on the final draft of the PHEMP.

Influenza Vaccine to Homeless People

During 2018-19, the SAPHC considered options for the provision of free influenza vaccines to homeless people.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends annual influenza vaccination for homeless people, but this vaccination is not funded on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for homeless people. The influenza vaccination is funded by the Commonwealth Government on the NIP for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people aged six months and over
- People aged six months or over who have medical conditions that mean they have a higher risk of getting serious disease
- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- People aged 65 years or over.

The SAPHC looked at the number and categories of homeless people in South Australia, the issues around implementation and potential costs for the provision of free influenza vaccine to homeless people living in South Australia.

The next steps will be for the SAPHC to look at options for a program to be put in place for the provision of free influenza vaccine to homeless people in South Australia.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Not Applicable

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Not Applicable

| Additional Metrics | Total |
|--|-------|
| Number of positive feedback comments | |
| Number of negative feedback comments | |
| Total number of feedback comments | |
| % complaints resolved within policy timeframes | * |

Data for previous years is available at: [Data.SA](#)

Service improvements for period

Not Applicable

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2018-19

The South Australian Public Health Council is unincorporated and therefore does not provide financial statements.