



PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

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SA HEALTH

CIRCULAR TO LOCAL COUNCILS

JULY 2009

HEALTH INSPECTION FREQUENCY – PUBLIC SWIMMING AND SPA POOLS

Regular health inspections are essential in ensuring that public swimming and spa pools are operated and maintained in accordance with the Public and Environmental Health (General) Regulations 2006, to effectively protect public health.

Public swimming pools have been implicated in a number of outbreaks of infectious disease in Australia. The most recent occurrence was in New South Wales in February 2009 with 201 people infected. South Australia experienced an outbreak in 2007 with approximately 280 people affected. Both outbreaks were due to cryptosporidium, and both implicated public swimming pools as a source of infection.

To assist local councils discharge their statutory duty to promote proper standards of public and environmental health within their areas (and prevent the occurrence and spread of notifiable diseases), the Council makes the following recommendations with regards to public swimming and spa pools:

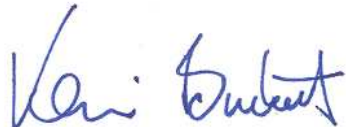
- All public swimming and spa pool facilities should be inspected thoroughly at least once in every 12 month period for compliance with all requirements of the Public and Environmental Health (General) Regulations 2006 and associated Codes and Standards.
- Where non-compliance is observed, further inspections and other necessary action should be performed until all issues are resolved.
- More frequent inspections should be performed at facilities:
 - where regular non-compliance has been observed.
 - with large numbers of patrons
 - that service vulnerable populations.
- Local council owned or run facilities should be inspected by an environmental health officer as per any privately owned facility.
- Inspections to investigate specific complaints or reports of notifiable disease should only be regarded as a routine inspection if a complete and thorough

compliance inspection is performed which demonstrates full compliance with the relevant Regulations and Standards.

- Efforts should be made by local environmental health authorities to ensure that all public swimming and spa pools have been identified in their area.

If you require further information, please contact Ms Michaela Hobby, Manager – Environmental Services Section, SA Health, on 08 8226 7100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Bucket". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Kevin Buckett
Presiding Member

Public and Environmental Health Council