

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC) met three times during the reporting period. Highlights of the issues addressed by the SAPHC are provided below:

REVIEW OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

The *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (SAPH Act) was proclaimed on 23 February 2012 and commenced in successive tranches over the ensuing 18 month period. As prescribed under Section 110 of the SAPH Act, the Social Development Committee of Parliament must review the operation of this SAPH Act as soon as practicable after the expiry of five years from its commencement.

The SAPH Act review is listed as a forward review for the now re-established Social Development Committee.

The impending review of the SAPH Act provided an opportunity for the SAPHC to review the requirements set out in Division 3 – South Australian Public Health Council, Section 27-36 and Division 3 – Reviews and appeals, Section 95-96 of the SAPH Act.

At the 20 April 2018 SAPHC meeting, the SAPHC reviewed these requirements. Section 27(1) of the SAPH Act sets out the composition and required 'background' of the membership of the SAPHC, appointed by the Governor on nomination of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Section 27(1)(b)(iii) of the SAPH Act requires that *'two must be persons nominated by the Minister who have qualifications in public health'*. The term *'qualifications in public health'* is vague and potentially limiting. It is not clear whether a person who has worked extensively in public health and has a sound knowledge of the discipline can be put forward for appointment or whether they must have academic qualifications (e.g. Masters or Graduate Diploma/Certificate Public Health).

It was agreed to recommend an amendment to section 27(1)(b)(iii) of the SAPH Act to allow the Minister to appoint one person who has either qualifications in public health or experience in an area of public health practice and one member who has mental health and wellbeing qualifications and/or relevant experience.

The modus operandi of the SAPHC was also discussed and it was agreed to make the following operational changes that do not require any amendments to the SAPH Act:

- Deputies would no longer be appointed and the current deputy's term ends at the expiry of their current appointment.
- Section 17(1)(b)(i) – The procedural difficulties in nominating five people for positions by the Local Government Association of South Australia is to be handled by staggering appointments (e.g. one for two years and the other for three years in the first instance, that way only three nominations need to be called from that point forward as only one position will be filled at a time).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The SAPHC is comprised of the Chief Public Health Officer *ex officio* (who is the Presiding Member) and nine other members appointed by the Governor on nomination of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

During the reporting period, Assoc Professor James (Jim) Dollman resigned from his position of member of the SAPHC. Assoc Professor Dollman was appointed under section 27(1)(b)(v) (experience in the field of health promotion) of the SAPH Act. Mr Danny Broderick's appointment as deputy member to Assoc Professor Dollman ended when Assoc Professor Dollman resigned.

The terms of two SAPHC members expired during the reporting period. One member vacancy required candidates with experience in local government and one member vacancy required candidates who have qualifications in public health.

Nominations were provided by the Local Government Association of South Australia consistent with the requirements of the Act. A public call for expressions of interest for people with the relevant qualifications and experience for the remaining vacancies was made.

Outside of the reporting period, His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed the following members who were proclaimed in the South Australian Government Gazette on 16 August 2018:

- Mr Gary Mavrinc, re-appointed as a member of the SAPHC under section 27(1)(b)(i) of the SAPH Act
- Professor Helen Marshall, re-appointed as a member of the SAPHC under section 27(1)(b)(iii) of the SAPH Act
- Ms Imelda Lynch, appointed as a member of the SAPHC under section 27(1)(b)(v) of the SAPH Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW PANEL

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

Pursuant to Section 95(3) of the SAPH Act, the review will be to the Public Health Review Panel and is constituted of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) (who will be the Presiding Member) and two members of the SAPHC 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 a review to the Public Health Review Panel pursuant to Section 95 of the SAPH Act was received. The application applied for a review by the Panel of a Notice imposed under the South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013 which was issued by a relevant authority pursuant to Section 92 of the SAPH Act.

There is no right under Section 95 of the SAPH Act to seek a review to the Panel of a Notice issued by a relevant authority to secure compliance with requirements imposed under a regulation made under the SAPH Act. Section 95 of the SAPH Act only provides for a right to review a Notice issued to secure compliance with the duty under Part 6, Section 56 of the SAPH Act.

The applicant was advised that they have a right to appeal to the District Court against the Notice (Section 96 of the SAPH Act).



PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW PANEL WORKSHOPS

As described above, under Section 95 of the SAPH Act, a person who has been served with a notice may apply for a review of that notice. The review is conducted by the Public Health Review Panel constituted of members of the SAPHC.

During the reporting period, two workshops for SAPHC members who participate on Public Health Review Panels on the procedures to be undertaken when serving as a Panel member were held.

REVIEW OF THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

The inaugural State Public Health Plan, *South Australia: A Better Place to Live* (the inaugural Plan) was released in November 2013. The inaugural Plan set out the principles and policies for achieving the objects of the Act and implementing the principles established under the SAPH Act.

As required by Section 50(5) of the SAPH Act, the Minister must review the Plan at least once in every five years. To meet legislative requirements, the Plan needs to be reviewed prior to the end of 2018.

A review of the inaugural Plan was undertaken to inform the development of the next Plan. From this review, a summary framework for the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 was developed to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on its structure and content as well as develop more specific actions under the priority areas. This stakeholder feedback informed the development of a draft State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 (draft Plan).

The draft Plan is currently out for consultation with public health partners with the release of the State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 that will set the strategic direction for public health for the next five years in November 2018.

The SAPHC provided assistance and advice to the Chief Public Health Officer on the consultation process for the review of the inaugural plan, the summary framework and the development of the draft Plan.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

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


The PHEMP is due for revision and update in 2018. Representatives from SAPHC are on the Working Group to undertake the review and ensure the plan meets the needs of State and Local Governments, public health practitioners and communities.

A copy of the current PHEMP can be found on the [SA Health Website](#).

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING – EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS

The aim of the annual Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Awards is to recognise local councils in South Australia that have made outstanding contributions to public health outcomes for their communities.

Metropolitan and Regional Councils are invited to nominate an initiative that has



resulted in positive public health outcomes for their community. The Awards provide an opportunity for Local Councils to showcase the vital role they play in promoting, protecting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of their communities.

The Winners of the 2018 Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Awards were:

- **Regional Winner**
Barossa Council, Light Regional Council, Town of Gawler & Adelaide Plains Council for their Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Ageing in Style Expo Regional Roadshow.
- **Metropolitan Winner**
Cities of Onkaparinga and Marion (with Resilient South partners) for the Heatwave Hypothetical Event: Feeling Hot Hot Hot! Dealing with Heatwaves in Southern Adelaide
- **Highly Commended Councils**
Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Salisbury – for the Inspiring Health initiative
Wudinna District Council – for the Wudinna Memory Walk for Dementia.

SAPHC members offered their time to be on the judging panel for these awards.

More information about the 2018 Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Awards can be found on the [SA Health website](#).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

The State Public Health Plan: South Australia, A better place to live requires the *'development of 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'*.

Following extensive consultation, the South Australian Public Health Indicator Framework (the Framework) has been developed. The framework has two components:

- An overview
- Metadata – details about what is being measured.

The Framework will be formally reviewed in early 2019 following the development of the Chief Public Health Officer's Report July 2016 to June 2018.

Information about the Framework can be found on the [SA Health website](#).

The SAPHC were consulted and provided advice to the development of the South Australian Public Health Indicator Framework.

MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward, the main focus of the SAPHC will be working in partnership with the South Australian Mental Health Commission to strengthen the mental health and wellbeing of South Australians.

In addition, the SAPHC will provide expert advice to the Chief Public Health Officer on issues that have an impact on public health and wellbeing in the South Australian community.