

June 2023

EHA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the EHA National Newsletter! As the season transitions and nature paints a vibrant tapestry of colors, our focus shifts to key environmental health issues affecting our communities.

In this edition, we dive into pressing environmental health issues, share inspiring stories of young EHOs, and provide updates on upcoming events and initiatives.

Get ready to be informed and empowered!

If there is anything EHA can do to support you, please contact samantha.smith@eh.org.au

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Message from the President

By Philip Swain

Driving out of Marble Bar in Western Australia this morning I passed another 110-wheel road-train carrying 100 tonnes of iron ore to Port Hedland. These vehicles are minnows in the scheme of things in the Pilbara, but it reminded me of how much this part of Australia contributes to national prosperity. I am also acutely aware of the environmental health issues in this area and some of the contradictions they raise. I am here for a week ensuring food and water safety is being properly addressed, amongst other tasks, at various mining camps. I will drive 1500km (burning fossil fuel) to ensure that camps operate in a safe and compliant way, to maintain an industry that contributes substantially to an insatiable appetite for steel produced in China and used worldwide. To move to a more sustainable future will undoubtedly require extraordinary changes and compromises in the coming decades.

Interestingly, the Pilbara has also experienced recent environmental health impacts with the identification of Japanese Encephalitis for the first time and only a few hundred kilometres north, in the Kimberley, there have been several cases this year of Murray Valley Encephalitis and the death of a toddler. From an historical perspective the movement of arbovirus diseases across northern Australia and down through Western Australia is well documented, but the speed of this recent movement of viruses is not dissimilar to the spread of Ross River Virus during the 1980's. It is important then to remember that with more research and intervention, based on good environmental health practice, such outbreaks can be restricted or even prevented.

Last month your National Board met in Brisbane for what was a very productive three days, including an afternoon with Dr Melissa Stoneham, who worked with the National Directors and staff, on the organisation's advocacy role. My sincere thanks to Dr Stoneham for her insights and dedication to improving EHA's performance in this area. The Board's advocacy session focussed on the development of two advocacy priorities for the organisation moving forward. Unsurprisingly, those present determined workforce as an advocacy priority and the Board will be working in coming months to better impact the need for and recognition of EHO's. And there was a strong belief amongst members that the environmental health aspects of arboviruses is an area that needs a concerted effort by the profession to advocate for better understanding and control of mosquitoes and the transmission of diseases in Australia. I look forward to advancing these projects with the assistance of the National and State Boards and the broader Membership as we move into the second half of 2023.

On the workforce front EHA has continued to lobby for necessary visa changes to assist EHO's already working in Australia and to simplify options for any suitably qualified migrating EHO's in the future. Recent announcements by the Australian government in relation to avenues to citizenship are encouraging. With the current round of accreditations finalising, the shortness of graduate supply, is still not meeting demand around Australia. The Central Queensland University undergraduate course re-accreditation is being finalised as I write, and the Board is aiming to conduct the 5 yearly review of the policy in the second half of this year. I look forward to constructive input from all stakeholders, on this important milestone for the now 10-year-old policy. I again thank all those committed professionals from state governments, local governments, and our universities for their valuable volunteer contribution to this most important work on our accreditation panels.

With the end of the financial year approaching, it is now less than a year before the International Federation of Environmental Health 17th World Congress will be held in Perth, Western Australia 20th - 24th May 2024. Our Association in Western Australia are already working hard to develop and promote the event and the website and the first call for papers will be out in the next couple of weeks.

I encourage all Members to participate in this unique opportunity for the profession here in Australia.

Yours in environmental health

Philip Swain LFEHA
National President
Environmental Health Australia



Looking for your next EH Professional? They could be looking for you!

Sarah Ainsworth – Business Manager Environment & Health, Goulburn Mulwaree Council

In August 2022 I was contacted by the Post Graduate Environmental Health Course Coordinator at Curtin University regarding a student struggling to find a work placement opportunity in New South Wales.

This student was in the final semester of her degree and urgently required this placement to be completed in order to graduate in the coming November. Despite this student having contacted numerous Councils across the Sydney basin she had no luck in obtaining a placement opportunity. In fact, many organisations either advised her that they didn't provide work placement, that she needed a traineeship to gain experience or sadly didn't provide a response to her request at all. Given the responses she had received, or lack thereof, she was even contemplating travelling to Western Australia to complete the work placement for her degree.

Students usually seek out work placement at organisations within close proximity to their home for convenience without much thought of heading out to regional areas. I have heard many reports from regional Councils that they will happily facilitate work placement and work experience requests, however these requests are seldom received. As the Business Manager Environment & Health at one such regional organisation that has struggled to recruit Environmental Health Professionals I can confirm that we love to host students and provide the practical experience they require to graduate and ultimately start their careers in Environmental Health.

This particular student, Sapnaa Parmar, started her work placement with us not long after this and threw herself into the experience wholeheartedly. Sapnaa joined us three days per week undertaking a range of activities including food premise inspections, water sampling, customer request investigation, updating education materials and contributed to our team at every opportunity. Unknown to Sapnaa at the time, our Council was about to advertise an Environmental Health Officer position with a range from Graduate to experienced Officer. Sapnaa's work placement unintentionally became an informal on the job training period and when she applied for the position she was

able to draw on the skills, knowledge and experience learnt during her work placement and her formal qualifications to put herself at the very top of the applicant pool and ultimately be selected as our preferred candidate for the position.

Sapnaa completed her work placement, graduated as scheduled, commenced her full-time position as an Environmental Health Officer with Goulburn Mulwaree Council and is a very valued addition to our team. Sapnaa relocated her family to Goulburn for the role and without the opportunities provided during her work placement with our organisation this would likely never of occurred.

Recent reports and our lived experience show us that as a profession Environmental Health is struggling to fill vacancies and attract the next generation into the workforce in a competitive market. As such we all need to do what we can to attract, retain, retrain, upskill and develop our workforce through facilitating opportunities for both students and those already working in the field. This can be achieved through taking student placements, continuing to build relationships and opportunities for resource sharing and networking across State and Local Government organisations, providing career development prospects for professionals to move into team leader and management functions, ongoing mentoring and on the job training and also job sharing experience between inner city and regional professionals to ensure our workforce can undertake the diverse functions of the role including tasks such as on-site sewage management and illegal dumping that those in inner city postings may not have access to.

Our message to students looking for work placement – reach out to regional organisations for placement opportunities as the experience you obtain at a regional organisation is diverse, contact the EHA Executive Officers in your relevant State to see if they have connections within their network that may be able to facilitate a work placement opportunity, don't be discouraged if you receive a no – keep knocking on doors until you find where you are meant to be and throw yourself

into any opportunity provided during your work placement (it may just be one long job interview and a foot in the door to start your career).

To organisations in a position to take on work placement students – do it! It is an excellent opportunity for your organisation to help grow the next generation particularly in an industry crying out for skilled professionals – often providing an opportunity to complete tasks that are unable to be actioned with regular resource constraints, is low risk (the student is covered by the University's insurance policy), gives your team the opportunity to provide mentorship and impart their skills and knowledge unique to your organisation and it may just lead to you finding your next valuable team member.

These are but just a few of the positives - the list really is endless, and in my experience it really makes you feel good to be able to provide these opportunities, ignite a passion for our field and possibly be one of the reasons someone joins us for an awesome career in Environmental Health!



Sapnaa Parmar (front left) with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Environmental Health Team

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SHORTAGE?

1. Host a student placement from an EHA accredited course, they could be your next team member!
2. Take on a student currently studying an EHA accredited course and employ them as a cadet or a trainee.
3. Employ a science graduate and support this person for a further one year of full time study or two years of part-time study to complete an EHA accredited post graduate qualification (there are five to choose from). This is a small investment with the outcome being a qualified environmental health professional.

National Updates

Environmental Health Australia National Board Meets Face to Face in Brisbane

The Environmental Health Australia (EHA) National Board recently held a productive face-to-face meeting in Brisbane, Queensland. The meeting brought together national board members from different parts of the country to discuss critical issues related to environmental health and the profession.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a half day advocacy workshop, which provided board members with insights and strategies for advocating for better policies and resources for environmental health. The workshop emphasized the importance of building relationships with key stakeholders and using effective communication strategies to promote environmental health issues. Another highlight, as always, was the level of collaboration among the board members which was evident in the lively and engaging discussions that took place across the 3 days.



There was also significant discussion around the IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health, which is being held in Perth, Western Australia next year (2024) from May 20th - 24th. Preparations are well under way and we will be sharing updates over our social media channels in the coming months. If you have not yet subscribed to the EHA social media channels, do so by following the below links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EnvHealthAu>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eha-ltd/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/EHA_LTD

The face to face meeting also covered topics related to emerging environmental health issues, including climate change and the environmental health workforce shortage. Board members discussed the need for increased research and advocacy to address these issues and ensure a healthier environment for all.

The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for board members to collaborate and share their knowledge and insights on critical issues related to environmental health. As EHA President Philip Swain noted, "The meeting was an important opportunity for board members to collaborate and share their knowledge and insights on critical issues facing environmental health today. It was great to see such a high level of engagement and commitment to promoting a healthier environment for all."

Moving forward, the EHA National Board will continue to work to advance the field of environmental health and promote healthier environments for all. By working together and advocating for better policies and resources, we can ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

17th IFEH WORLD CONGRESS
20-24 MAY 2024
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



We can't wait to see you in Perth, May 2024!



Scan here
for further
information



Preparations are underway for the 2024 World Congress on Environmental Health being held by EHA (WA) in Perth next May!

For more information click [HERE](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity for Australia to show case innovative solutions to a wide range of new, emerging and fundamental public and environment health challenges.

If you would like to be notified when further information becomes available for the 2024 World Congress in Perth, please click the link below and fill out the [Expression of Interest Form](#).

State Updates



EHA (NSW)

EHA (NSW) INC Conference: 11-14 September 2023, Wagga Wagga RSL Club.

Environmental Health – Connecting paths less travelled

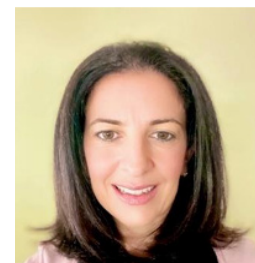
The EHA (NSW) INC Annual State Conference will be held in the picturesque regional city of Wagga Wagga from 11 to 13 in September 2023. The conference program includes a technical tour to Junee Chocolate Factory and a networking function sponsored by B.E.S.T. There is also an optional masterclass on Thursday 14 September on Mosquito management and Vector control. Early bird registration is now open. All conference details and a draft program are available on the website nsw@eh.org.au.

Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO) – Lunchtime webinar series

The NSW Board recently held a series of 'POEO at lunch' webinars, focusing on key factors of a POEO investigation. The webinars were well attended with discussions focused on onsite evidence collection, establishing the correct legal entity, use of s192 (requirement to provide information and records), Environment Protection Notices, witness evidence and interviewing. EHA (NSW) INC will be using the information from the webinars to develop a two-day professional development program on POEO. Watch this space!

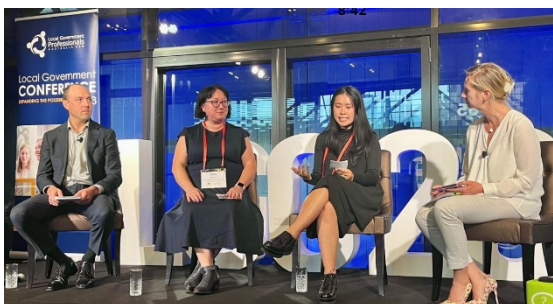
Welcome to our new Executive Officer

The EHA (NSW) INC Board would like to welcome Manal Yen to the EHA team as the EHA (NSW) INC Executive Officer. Manal has over 20 years' experience in the field of corporate duties, finance and business administration. She is looking forward to learning more about the profession and applying her skills and experience to work with the profession in NSW and across Australia.



EHA representation at the 2023 Local Government Conference

On 31 May EHA NSW President, Erin Hogan, represented the environmental health profession at the 2023 Local Government Conference run by LG Professionals Australia NSW. The event was attended by delegates from across NSW, including General Managers, Directors and Managers. She spoke on a panel discussing the future of local government, described the breadth of work done by environmental health practitioners in council, and highlighted the importance of providing traineeships, cadetships, graduate roles and work placements - particularly in the environmental health field, to assist with workforce shortages.



Greater Western Sydney Careers Expo

On 24 and 25 May EHA NSW represented the profession at the Greater Western Sydney Careers Market in Penrith. The event was well attended, and we engaged with many students. It was terrific to see genuine interest in environmental health and the variety of work we do. Hopefully amongst those students is a future EHO!



Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future

EHA (QLD)

81st EHA (QLD) INC Annual Symposium

The 81st EHA (QLD) INC Annual Symposium will be held from 7-9 November at the Komo Hotel in Redcliffe. The theme is “Environmental Health - – Amazing people enabling healthy places!” The symposium will present an opportunity for environmental health professionals to extend their skills and knowledge, network with their peers and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The symposium committee invites you to submit an abstract to share your innovation, research, successes and learnings that align with the theme. All details are available on the website qld@eh.org.au. We look forward to seeing you in Redcliffe.

Environmental Health Disaster Management Course, 23-28 July, Townsville

The EHA Environmental Health Disaster Management Course has proven to be a popular professional development course again this year with course numbers at capacity. This course has been developed to focus on those unique challenges by Environmental Health Professionals who have worked, predominantly within the Australasian region, in various disaster and emergency management roles through AUSMAT, Australian Defence Force, State Government, Local Government and NGOs. The course content is designed to meet the environmental health needs of common disasters and emergencies we are likely to face in the Australasian region including our local communities where we work and live. If you would like to participate in this course in 2024, please email your expression of interest to qld@eh.org.au.

EHA (VIC)

Introducing the new EHA Victoria President

James Williams MPH, MAICD, FEHA, MIFEH

The EHA (VIC) LTD board would like to welcome James Williams as the new President for EHA Victoria. James is a Fellow of EHA and has a long association with the organisation. He currently works privately as an environmental public health consultant after having previously had a 15 year career with Aspen Medical where he held several senior positions managing primary care clinics and health services contracts for a variety of international and domestic public and private sector clients. Prior to this he worked as an EHO in state and local government. James been actively involved in instructing and delivering disaster management training programs for environmental health professionals since 2011 and most recently was instrumental in preparing the EHA submission on role and function of the Australia CDC. He is a recipient of the Solidarity Medal from the President of Timor Leste, 2010 and the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal from the Australian Government, 2019. James holds a BSc Env. Health, Griffith University, trained in risk communication at the Harvard School of Public Health, USA and holds an MPH, University of Queensland. James is excited to join the EHA Victoria team at such a pivotal time for our profession where he will focus on engaging with members to continue to the visibility of environmental health issue and showcase the environmental health profession at the state and national level. James also looks forward to meeting with the wider environmental health profession in Victoria. EHA thanks former President of EHA Victoria, Philip Swain for his stewardship.



EHA (TAS)

EHA (TAS) INC Annual State Conference

The EHA (TAS) INC Annual State Conference will be held from 4-6 September at the Iron Creek Bay Farm Stay, Sorell. The theme is “Environmental Health - Leaders in the field!” The call for papers is now open. All details are available on the website tas@eh.org.au. We look forward to seeing you there.

EHA (TAS) Professional Development Seminar

EHA TAS facilitates three professional development seminars throughout the year to provide timely and relevant information to the environmental health profession. This is an opportunity for Tasmanian environmental health professionals to come together, share information, experiences, research and learnings. The next professional development seminar is scheduled for Tuesday 4 July at the Grange Function Centre in Campbell Town. Keep an eye on the ehatas.org.au website for the agenda.

EHA (WA)

The 76 th state environmental health conference was held earlier in April at the Westin Hotel in Perth. As well as the three master classes and the two days of the conference, another highlight was the sundowner event which included a celebration of the first graduates of the (now) Curtin University environmental health course. A number of graduates of the course t the sundowner shared their recollections of 50 years in impromptu presentations to delegates. The conference was well attended with the masterclasses all being fully booked and around 150 delegates attending each day to learn from speakers on a wide range of environmental health topics and emerging trends.

The board's minds and efforts now turn to the IFEH conference in Perth just under 12 months away.

Events

Upcoming

Queensland

14th July : DD/SW Regional Group Meeting

Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre, QLD

Price - \$0

Registrations Open - Close 7th Jul 11:59 PM

7th - 9th November : 81st Annual Symposium

The Komo Hotel, Redcliffe, QLD

Members Early Bird Price - \$880 (\$440 student)

Non-Members Early Bird Price - \$1,150

Registrations Open - 23rd Oct 23 5:00 PM

23rd - 28th July : Environmental Health Disaster Management Course

Hotel Grand Chancellor Townsville

Members Price - \$1,870 (\$1,210 student)

Non-Members Price - 2,200

Registrations Full, email qld@eh.org.au to be put on the waitlist and to be advised of registrations for the 2024 course.

New South Wales

11th - 13th September : Annual State Conference

WAGGA WAGGA RSL CLUB

Members Early Bird Price - \$820

Non-Members Early Bird Price - \$1,090

Registrations Open - Close 1st Sep 11:59 PM

14th September : Annual State Conference

Masterclass

WAGGA WAGGA RSL CLUB

Members Price - \$66 (with conference rego)

Non-Members Price - \$110 (with conference rego)

Registrations Open - Close 1st Sep 11:59 PM

Tasmania

4th July : Profesional Development Seminar

The Grange Function Centre, Campbell Town, TAS

Members Price - \$70 (\$40 students)

Non-Members Price - \$180

Registrations Open - close 27th June 3pm

4th - 6th September : Annual State Conference

Iron Creek Farm Stay, Sorell, TAS

Members Price - TBD

Non-Members Price - TBD

Registrations Open Soon

South Australia

19th October : Annual State Conference

Adelaide Convention Centre

Members Price - \$660

Non-Members Price - \$990

Registrations Open - close 18th Oct 23 11:59 PM

Western Australia



20th - 24th May 2024: 2024 IFEH WORLD CONGRESS

Perth WA

Members Price - ~\$1,100 (price is estimate only)

Student Price - ~\$550 (price is estimate only)

Non-Members Price - ~\$1,475 (price is estimate only)

Registrations Open 1st November 12am

Watch the Video

EHO Workforce Survey

Dr Kirstin Ross Et Al.

In a recent survey conducted by Flinders University 180 responses were received from all states and territories. Most respondents were EHOs from local government.

In summary, there is a significant workforce shortage, especially in regional and rural areas.

All states reported high levels of “Definitely not/probably not” to the question “Do you currently have enough staff to fulfil your regulatory responsibilities.”

Recruiting suitable applicants was “Impossible” for eight councils, and “Difficult” or “Very difficult” for 109/180 respondents.

Significant anecdotal evidence was collated. A few quotes below:

- “Must be able to recruit and invest in graduate students. Minimal experience available on the market”
- “Have tried twice now to fill an outstanding LSL position. Used the WA EHO google group each time as we need a person who

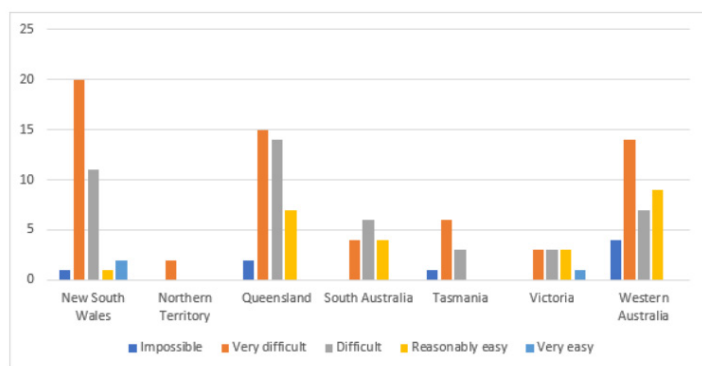
can step up immediately to fill a short term temporary role. No luck either time and as a result the employee is unable to take LSL owing as position can not be backfilled successfully.”

- “It is getting very hard to find qualified and suitably experienced EHOs so considerations are made to get unqualified (not degree level) staff to ensure the work can get done. This can lead to a lowering of skills and knowledge especially in the area of food safety.”
- “Our last recruitment for a qualified EHO was quite successful in that we had a number of applicants with high level skills and experience. This was unusual compared to previous recruitment rounds where we have struggled to attract good quality applicants. Our thinking is that our Council had become a much more attractive place to work given a salary system review resulted in EHOs receiving a significant pay rise, the COVID

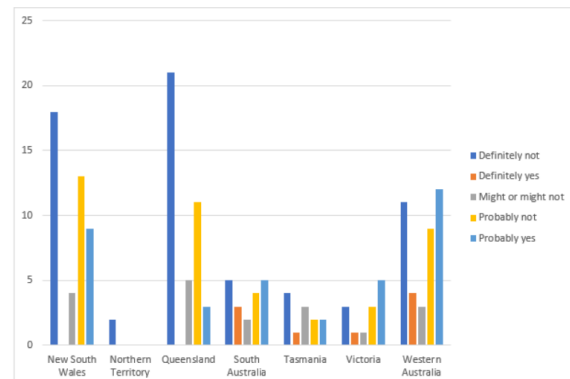
pandemic causing many staff to look for new employers, and the fact that our Council had implemented a very enticing flexible working arrangements policy that was clearly stated to remain even after the pandemic was over. All this made us an employer of choice.”

- “We have been trying to recruit 2 EHO positions for over 12 months. Unsuccessful, qualified people not applying. Explored cadets, explored Grad Dip options again unsuccessful. Still trying to recruit 2 full time positions. The region is also down EHOs. 2 neighbouring Local Governments currently also down staff, one is down 3 EHOs (currently no EHOs employed) other is down 2 EHOs (leaving 1 EHO to carry workload. The region is struggling to cope, actually not coping.”

How do you rate your difficulty to get suitable applicants?



Do you currently have enough staff to fulfil your regulatory responsibilities?



EHA is a part of the Climate And Health Alliance (CAHA) and as such we receive regular member updates on the organisation's actions. For your convenience, please find a quarterly summary of CAHA news received by EHA. If you would like weekly updates, please email caha-members@googlegroups.com

March 23

Healthy Transport Choices meeting

Thanks to all the CAHA members who made it on Wednesday to the briefing for our new healthy transport campaign, Healthy Transport Choices meeting! For those who missed it, here is the [recording](#) and here are the [slides](#). We're looking to build a coalition of health organisations who care about reducing air pollution and preventing illness as promoted by our current transport system! If your organisation would like to be kept informed about the campaign, please [sign up!](#)

Sign on: Support for an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate change and human rights

You may be aware of the [Pacific nations-led campaign](#) for an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on the human rights implications of climate change. Global civil society can show their support via this [organisational sign on letter](#) to demonstrate their support.

New reports on climate change, heat and mental health from allies

An abundance of excellent reports have been released by climate-health allied organisations over the past two weeks, which we recommend you take a look at:

- CAHA member, the Australian Council of Social Service has released [their findings from their 2023 heat survey](#) to reveal in Australia how those on low incomes are affected by heat
- The Climate Council has released a [new report](#) on the growing toll of climate trauma on the Australian population
- The new report from Better Renting [Sweaty and Stressed](#) finds renters in excessive heat 45% of the time

IPCC Synthesis Report

The [IPCC's Synthesis Report](#) was released, giving the most updated summary of the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. We encourage CAHA members to read this [response to the IPCC report](#) from Dr Janine Mohamed, CEO of the Lowitja Institute, reflecting on the disproportionate burden from climate change on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the crucial role that First Nations people will play in driving climate solutions. [Read more](#)

UN Water Conference: Financing, infrastructure and policy change crucial to end global water crisis

At the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, global leaders painted a grim picture of a global water crisis that, if not addressed with financing, infrastructure and policy changes, will lead to more suffering, deaths, conflicts and mass migration. We encourage all members to read [this statement](#) out of the conference, to reiterate how important urgent climate action is for global health.

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2023!

The Climate and Health Alliance, GGHH Pacific Region and the WA Department of Health's Sustainable Development Unit are thrilled to bring the [Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum](#) to Noongar Country (Perth) for the first time, hosted by South Metropolitan Health Service. Early bird tickets close COB on 13 June. Buy now!

April 23

Free short course: Disaster resilience in community service organisations

Charles Sturt University and OpenLearning have launched a free online self-paced course [Disaster Resilience in Community Service Organisations](#). This short course offers practical strategies to improve disaster preparedness in community service organisations. As part of the course, you will hear from practitioners and managers in the field who are working to increase their organisation's disaster preparedness. [More info.](#)

Australian national bushfire health and wellbeing survey

The 2019–20 bushfires led to extensive mental health problems that persisted for more than 18 months after the devastating events, according to the national Bushfire Health and Wellbeing Survey, released March this year. The survey, conducted by ANU researchers, documents the levels of psychological distress and resilience of 3,000+ people directly and indirectly affected by the fires. The survey reveals how people and communities responded to the bushfires, with lessons for how Australians can better prepare for and manage future disasters. [Read more.](#)

May 23

Pilot study on youth climate anxiety

An interdisciplinary team at the University of Queensland is running a study on youth climate anxiety and is seeking young people to participate.

The study will give 40 young people the opportunity to try out and give feedback on a guided journal, designed to help them understand and cope with their thoughts and feelings around climate change.

The team is seeking EOIs from 16-24 year olds anywhere in Australia, so please share with your networks. [More info.](#)

Upcoming climate-health events

Great events coming up by CAHA members and allies:

- [NHMRC & AIHI Showcase: Future proofing healthcare](#), Fri 16 Jun, Sydney
- [Climate Health and Sustainable Healthcare in Aotearoa](#), 5-6 Jul, New Zealand
- [Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2023](#), 14-15 Sep, Perth and online

Rural Health Seminar: Understanding the community-led response to the 2022 Northern Rivers flood disasters

During last year's floods in the Northern Rivers, thousands of community members gave their time to help with rescues, short-term responses and ongoing recovery. In this seminar, the University Centre for Rural Health researchers will present their findings from a project that aims to understand this self-organised, community-led response. [More info.](#)

New fact sheet: Severe storms, floods and your health

Doctors for the Environment Australia has just released a new fact sheet which explains the harmful effects of floods and severe storms and the simple measures to manage them. [Check it out.](#)

Breaking! Australia scores ZERO on health for its climate pledge

FAIL! The Global Climate and Health Alliance has scored Australia's latest UN climate pledge a "zero" because it fails to recognise the health risks and benefits in its greenhouse gas reduction targets. [Read more.](#)

CAHA budget analysis

We have published our analysis of the 2023/24 budget on our website. We are calling for urgent, additional funding to support the work of the National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit and to resource the implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy, and will be seeking clarification from the Commonwealth Government on these matters.

Please read the [full analysis](#) and the accompanying [media release](#).

Bloomberg Documentary "Bushfire Babies"; Smoke's impact on babies and children

Bloomberg has put together a 24-minute video that explores some of the tragic long-term health impacts that are starting to emerge since Australia's 2019-20 megafires. [More info](#)

An international climate-health win

Published last week, the 2023 [World Health Statistics Report](#) features a separate chapter on "Climate and Health" for the first time. WHO officials said that this inclusion underlines its importance as a major driver of health outcomes in coming years.



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

The Highfield approach to improving food safety

Richard Sprenger - Chairman, Highfield Group

For over 50 years I have initiated or taken part in many projects/schemes intended to improve food safety, with varying degrees of success.

Training programmes and Food Safety Management Systems/HACCP are probably two of the most important.

Many training programmes, especially mandatory programmes, have focused on food handlers and certification, instead of supervisor/management training and implementation of knowledge/competency.

One of the few countries to use the competency approach was Ireland.

The US requirement for a Person in Charge programme is a great food safety initiative and one that was a part catalyst for the very successful Dubai Food Safety Programme.

I am proud to have worked with Dubai Municipality to establish this programme which is still going strong and one of the reasons for Dubai having such high standards of food safety, especially in 4 and 5 star hotels and the tourist hospitality industry.

Highfield has now taken this programme a step further with three very important additions.

The Manager in Charge of Food Safety (<https://www.highfieldinternational.com/highfield-certified-programmes>) must:

- Obtain 4 x Level3 internationally recognised qualifications – Food safety, HACCP, Allergen management and Effective Auditing (takes 5 to 6 days to complete).
- Carry out monthly recorded audits, including timely remedial action. The reports to be available for viewing by enforcement officers and third party or corporate auditors.
- Complete 24 hours of 'practical' CPD annually.

If managers and supervisors are to obtain relevant information and keep up to date with food safety incidents, we need to provide free, accessible reputable sites/platforms where food handlers/managers/trainers can get the latest accurate, science-based, reliable food safety information.

There are lots of sites available where information is provided,

some good and some very poor, but how would most food handlers know the difference?

Highfield has developed a LinkedIn Group (Highfield Food Safety Forum - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4589568/>) and a LinkedIn page to provide the latest international food safety information, advice and polls for access, free of charge, by anyone who has an interest in improving food safety.

EHA members can benefit from connecting with this LinkedIn Group to improve food safety, learn about global food safety issues and share invaluable knowledge and experience with group members.

Should any EHA members like to recommend speakers or topics for future webinars this would be really appreciated. (rsprenger@highfield.co.uk)

EHA Socials

Keep up to date with all the latest news through the EHA social media platforms. In case you missed them, below are some of the top posts for the past 2 months.



March

We will be having a LiveChat with Anas Ghadouani - Professor of Environmental Engineering at The University of Western Australia to celebrate World Water Day on March 22nd on the EHA Facebook page. Join us at 11am (AEST) to discuss the theme for this year: Accelerating Change #WWD2023

April

Great final night of the EHA (WA) conference. Trivia quiz night. Thank you conference organising committee, Julianne and Toni for use work.

May

So great seeing everyone at the EHA national board face to face, it was an extremely successful and productive get together with many returning faces and some new ones! We're looking forward to catching up again later this year and in Perth next May for the IFEH World Congress! #EHA #EH #IFEHWorldCongress23



March

NEW EH Job Listings [#EH #joblisting #work](#)

April

As we wind up our EHA (WA) State Conference today, we want to thank everyone who attended and made this event such a success! It's always great to network and share experiences and we look forward to seeing you all at the IFEH World Congress in Perth in May next year!
[#IFEH #EHA #conference](#)

May

NEW EH Job Listings [#EH #joblisting #work](#)



March

Did you know it's World Water Day this Wednesday!?

We will be having a LiveChat with Anas Ghadouani - Professor of Environmental Engineering at The University of Western Australia. We will be discussing the theme for this year: Accelerating Change #WWD2023

April

EH and Climate Change

Climate change is an increasingly urgent issue, & it's important to have EH professionals on the front lines of the fight. These professionals are essential in understanding, preventing, and reducing the effects of climate change. <https://t.co/zicZEX3CVI>

May

We're kicking off our EHA National Board meeting in Brisbane with a fantastic advocacy workshop with Melissa Stoneham. The workshop covered the importance of advocacy in promoting environmental health Thank you Melissa for facilitating this workshop! #EnvironmentalHealthAdvocacy

Federal Budget updates on the Australian CDC

James Williams FEHA

The Government will provide \$91.1 million over two years from 2023–24 (including \$0.2 million in capital) to commence the establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) over the next two years, as detailed in the Budget papers published on Tuesday 9 May 2023 (Budget Paper 2, p.131).

The Department of Health and Aged Care will create an interim CDC from 1 January 2024, and this will be housed within the department and headed by the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly.

In a virtual stakeholder webinar with portfolio ministers to talk about Budget announcements for health, aged care and sport on Wednesday 10 May 2023, the Health Minister, Mark Butler MP, emphasised data and infectious diseases as the initial foci of the CDC. Having one repository of data through which data is shared will be a priority.

There will be a (yet to be decided) statutory authority or other model, with the objective of both the commonwealth and states and territories to develop a rounded system that can address opportunities for prevention and chronic disease.

Environmental Health Australia (EHA) welcomes this substantial

next step towards establishing one of the most important public health initiatives in a generation and urges the government to ensure its long-term commitment and scaling up of funding to ensure the CDC can meet its commitments and achieve its mission.

EHA is encouraged by the mentioning of prevention in the scope of the CDC and will continue to advocate to the government the important and central role environmental health, EHA and its professional members play on a day in, day out basis that would significantly contribute to achieving the CDC's mission.

Although the detail on the allocation of the \$91.1 million hasn't been disclosed, EHA would like to see proportionate funding allocated to the environmental health sector, reflecting the vital role environmental health experts will play in the codesign of CDC environmental health data acquisition and analysis, the implementation of the One Health model and the implementation of the infectious disease control and prevention agenda.

Investment in environmental health has proven outcomes and its early enhanced integration into the existing States and Territories health systems and services will have value-adding benefits.

Environmental health that goes beyond filling gaps is the key for the CDC to achieve transformative change early and set the Australian Government's substantial investment up for ongoing success, ensuring the CDC can economically and effectively fulfil its mission and provide a world class template for countries to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmental Health Australia was a stakeholder in consultation processes that have explored the roles and responsibilities of an Australian CDC and is continuing to actively represent members interests as the development of the CDC progresses.

EHA's submission on the CDC consultation paper addresses its position on the priority aspects mentioned above and is available at:
<https://www.eh.org.au/documents/item/1320>

International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)

IFEH Partnership with UNDRR for Disaster Risk Reduction

International Federation of Environmental Health is formal partnership with the UNDRR - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The principal goal of the Scientific and Technical Partnership, as laid down by the UNDRR, is to provide the scientific and technical expertise for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

IFEH participation

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is one of the most important UN initiatives in recent history. Environmental Health is a key component in all phases of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. In that light the IFEH joined as a partner with the UNDRR.

UNDRR website: www.UNDRR.org

IFEH represents a global network of premier academic institutions (if you are not a member please consider doing so) and member organisations representing some 40,000 practicing environmental health professionals, and is uniquely able to disseminate relevant training, education, and research findings. Most importantly, our members are committed to identifying best practices, and sharing those through our established network, social media, conferences, training, webinars and the IFEH Magazine.

IFEH Disaster Risk Committee - IFEH DRR Committee

In order to fulfil the IFEH commitments to the S&T Partnership and in order to secure further IFEH engagement and participation the IFEH with the endorsement of the IFEH Council has formed the IFEH DRR Committee. The Committee include broad representation from all IFEH Regional Groups, the IFEH Presidency as well as from the academic institutions associated with the IFEH. It provides a strong foundation for the Federations work on DRR.

Its mission is to promote and facilitate engagement in all IFEH Regions and to promote co-operation between EH professionals and the Scientific Communities and to distribute information about DRR and to do this in partnership with international bodies as the UNDRR.

The committee aims to be a focus for the sharing of experience on EH related DRR and disseminate information, fostering co-operation between members and between universities on educational frameworks. If you feel you have the skills and knowledge to contribute to the work of the IFEH DRR committee, please contact Dr Andrew Mathieson (member IFEH DRR committee - andrew.mathieson@anu.edu.au)

The IFEH DRR Committee is chaired by:

Mr. Henning I. Hansen Hon. Vice President IFEH, IFEH Council, EnviNa Denmark.

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)

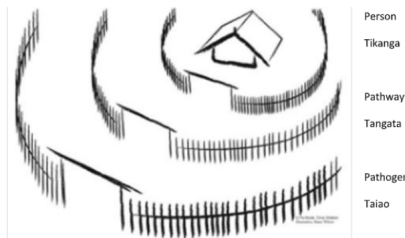
Kia Ora Aussie friends,

What a busy past few months it has been! Already this year seems to be racing along with winter now upon our doorstep. In March this year, we successfully hosted a sold-out face to face conference at the amazing Te Pae convention centre, Christchurch. This was a fantastic event and feedback overall has been very positive, including the Gala dinner experience which was held at the International Antarctic Centre a must do for any visitor to New Zealand. We were delighted to have Phil Swain as a guest presenter and also enjoyed the company of another EHA member who took advantage of the special offer and travelled to NZ to join us.

On 20 April 2023, we hosted our first EHZANZ webinar of 2023 with our guest speaker, Chris Webber from the Public Health Association of New Zealand. Chris gave an insightful presentation centred around Tikanga Māori and the concept of 'Mahi Tahi' or working together. Referring to Tikanga Māori (customs and protocols) prompts us to really consider how connected we are to Papatūānuku, our Earth Mother. As Chris said during his presentation, the more connected we are to our environment, which includes our Whakapapa (family roots/connections) and where we come from, the more likely we are to look after it. This was a great way to sum up World Earth Day and how we can all play a part in respecting our environment, resources and trying to enhance them for future generations to come.

Here's some key points from Chris's presentation:

- The Concept of Pa: In the context of Public Health and Tapa Wha (Protecting our 'house')
- The 3 P's of Public Health: Person, Pathway, Pathogen
- The 3 T's of Tapa Wha: Tikanga (Protocols/Customs), Tangata (People), Taiao (Places/Environment)



The Pa model represents layers of working relationships. From a health perspective, how does a Pathogen relate to a Pathway and people? Similarly, how do Māori customs and protocols relate to protecting people and places (also known as the environment). The answer is working together in the spirit of collaboration and collectiveness towards common goals. In the context of World earth day, this means using protocols, customs, or other framework such as rules and laws of society to help protect the people and places/environment of earth. Hence, Mahi Tahi – let's work together to help look after mother earth, being conscious of preserving natural resources, reducing waste and damage to the world we live in. Remember, it only takes us all doing one thing to help lead change. So we in New Zealand challenge you wherever you are in the world to do just one thing. Make a conscious effort to use a keep coffee cup, reduce plastic bag use, recycle different materials, compost food scraps at home – whatever you want! If we all do just one thing, imagine the difference to the world and our environment we could make...

We are currently planning our next EHZANZ webinar collaboration to celebrate World Food Safety Day so keep your eyes out for the details and how to register coming soon! Also coming up is our next NZIEH virtual webinar series on 31 May, 7 June & 14 June. This series will be covering a range of Environmental Health topics and featuring some interesting speakers including Lisa Hughes from GTK Consulting. It is therefore timely to announce our exciting news of a new membership tier within our institute, our International Membership option. This membership level gives access to all our virtual webinar offerings and is a great way to expand our reach, knowledge sharing and membership in general.

Check out our website for more information and register as an international member today [HERE](#)

Nga Mihi
Tanya Morrison
NZIEH National President

NEW MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT!



New Zealand
Institute of
**Environmental
Health**



INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

NZIEH are excited to now offer an International membership for \$100 (no GST applies)

WHAT IS THIS?...

This tier of membership enables our Environmental Health colleagues from around the world to link in with our institute and participate in all online events such as our upcoming webinar series.



COME JOIN US!

If you know of any Environmental Health professionals living abroad who would be interested in exploring this membership option further, please direct them to our website for more information. Terms and conditions apply.

WWW.NZIEH.ORG.NZ

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

Food Safety Heroes

You know more than anyone how important food safety is to the health and economy of a community. That is why we are sharing our [Food Safety Heroes Campaign](#) with you.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the value and importance of food safety and food safety professionals like you by telling food safety stories from local experts across the country.

We invite you to [share the videos](#) and website widely with your local communities, including with leaders and decision-makers. Here are a few ways you can share:

- Email the campaign link to your team/organisation and ask staff to share them if they're comfortable
- Ask if your organisation can share one or more videos on their social media platforms (you could consider boosting the post for as little as \$20!)
- Ask if you can include a link to the campaign webpage on your organisation's food safety webpage, if applicable
- Share the videos and messages on your own social media channels or listsers

NEHA 2023 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition

July 31-August 3, 2023

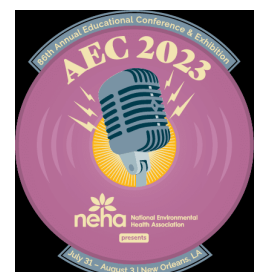
New Orleans, Louisiana and Virtually

The NEHA AEC is the event where environmental health professionals go to discover the latest solutions, best practices, innovations, and research in the industry. It is a place they can go to raise the voices of an often underseen profession. Even if you are only able to attend virtually, you will find your community, connect with old friends, and meet make new contacts.

This conference and exhibition is a comprehensive training and education investment to achieve immediate and long-term benefits.

- Acquire practical and real-world information and expertise from like-minded professionals that share your passion for environmental health.
- Leave trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance your organization and yourself.
- Gain the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to help solve your organization's daily and strategic challenges and improve your bottom-line results.
- Earn continuing professional development (CPD) points

View the [draft agenda](#) and [register](#) today!



Malaysian Association Environmental Health (MAEH)

THE BLACK SOLDIER FLY CENTRE: REVOLUTIONIZING WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Black Soldier Fly (BSF) is a unique insect as they are not pests and do not pose environmental health hazards like the common flies. The black soldier fly, *Hermetia illucens* is a type of insect that is abundant in warmer regions. It is recognized for its black body and translucent wings at the tips.

The commercial use of black soldier flies and their larvae have grown in recent years due to their potential as a sustainable source of protein and their capacity to contribute to environmental sustainability. Future research and development into the function of BSF might help create various sustainable and environmentally friendly products.

Black Soldier Fly Centre at Centre for Environmental Health and Safety Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Puncak Alam Campus in Malaysia in strategic partnership with Entomal Biotech Malaysia and Malaysian Association of Environmental Health (MAEH) serves as a hub for scientific investigations, aiming to unlock the full potential of these insects in waste management, agriculture, and sustainability initiatives. Researchers at the center; Dr Ahmad Razali Ishak, Associate Professor Dr Farah Ayuni Shafie and Razi Ikhwan Md Rashid conduct studies on the life cycle, reproduction, and feeding habits of black soldier flies to better understand their behavior and optimize their usage.

BSF larvae have a remarkable ability to consume and break down organic waste efficiently. They can convert various organic materials such as food waste, agricultural by-products, into nutrient-rich feed sources for livestock, aquaculture, pet food and even pharmaceuticals products.

The Black Soldier Fly Centre collaborates with various industries, government agencies, and research institutions to promote awareness, knowledge exchange, and the implementation of black soldier fly-based research. The center serves as a training ground for students and professionals interested in this field, providing them with hands-on experience and research opportunities.

For research collaboration, training and educational visit, please contact us at: admin@maeh4u.org.my.



BSF Centre promoting final products for community use



Visitors of BSF Centre on campus

AS 4674-2004 Construction and fit out of a food premises

Philip Swain

EHA has been made aware that AS 4674-2004 Construction and fit out of a food premises is currently under review.

EHA, as the peak professional body representing the interests of environmental health professionals across Australia, was involved in the development of this standard in 2004.

Standards Australia have advised that the Standard needs to be updated to align with current practices.

The current Standard, AS 4674-2004 Construction and fit out of a food premises, remains the Standard to be used for this purpose until a new standard has been developed.

EHA will be taking the lead and working with Standards Australia for the redrafting of the Australian Standard for the Construction and fit out of a food premises.

When the scope of the project and timeline has been established, EHA will be seeking input from members to assist with redrafting the Standard.

We look forward to your input so that we can progress with this important task.

<https://store.standards.org.au/reader/as-4674-2004?preview=1>

“This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee BD-095, Retail Food Premises, in response to a request from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (formerly ANZFA), to provide the food industry, the construction industry and governments across Australia with uniform criteria for the hygienic design, construction and fit-out of food premises.

The objective of this Standard is to provide criteria for architects, the construction industry and health and building regulators to cooperatively ensure that buildings used by food businesses are designed, constructed and fitted out in compliance with the requirements of the Australian Food Standards Code, Standard 3.2.3, Food Premises and Equipment, which will assist food businesses to produce safe food.

The scope of the Standard is limited to permanent buildings used by the food service industry, by food retailers and by small-scale food manufacturers.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is also considering including specific requirements for food premises in the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

When preparing plans for new

food premises or alterations to existing premises, advice should be sought from the appropriate government agency responsible for food safety in the area where the premises is located.

Notes to clauses in this Standard do not form a mandatory requirement for compliance with this Standard.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health in the preparation of this document, particularly for permission to use their publication The National Code for the Construction and Fitout of Food Premises, which is superseded by this Standard.

Valuable assistance was also given by organizations experienced in the design and construction of food premises and the Committee acknowledges their help”

National Associate Membership

Why should you consider EHA National Associate Membership for your company/organisation? As an EHA National Associate Member you have the following inclusions:

- You may use the EHA National Associate logo on your business website, documentation and promotional materials (logo usage guide provided).
- Your company logo will be added to the EHA National web page under our 'Partners' scrolling banner.
- A full page of company advertising will be made available in our regular National newsletter.
- EHA National will distribute materials for upcoming events to be conducted by Associates, through the regular communication mechanisms of National and State Associations. **EHA National and its Associations reserve the right to cease, or limit the timing and frequency of, any distribution of promotional material*
- You will have access to member rates for EHA hosted conferences and events.
- National Associate Members are entitled to use the post nominals of AEHA.
- You will be given the opportunity to advertise your company/product on the EHA YouTube channel with a 1-minute video

Please note: National Associate Membership does not imply endorsement of your products/services.

Join our other EHA National Associate Members and begin taking advantage of membership inclusions by sending an expression of interest to national@eh.org.au



Website Advertising

The EHA national website is updated regularly with environmental health job listing sent in by council and other employers around the country. To place a job advertisement on our website, please send an email to national@eh.org.au.

Our rate is \$180 + GST* for the duration of the application period.

Your advertisement will be promoted across EHA social media channels including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

For more information, please contact the National Executive Officer:

national@eh.org.au or 0448 606 002

**Rates increasing from July 1st 2023 to \$212(GST inc)*

Celebrate Open Office becoming part of ReadyTech with 10% off Health Manager!



powered by open office

Open Office was [acquired by ReadyTech in 2021](#), and Health Manager has now become part of [Ready Community](#) (powered by Open Office).

Ready Community is Australia's leading customer-centric ERP solution built for local and state governments. Encompassing Licensing, Compliance and Local Services, Financials, Property and Rates, and Asset Management, Ready Community delivers flexibility in a fully integrated council-wide solution.



To celebrate our new branding, we're offering a 10% discount off the Annual Subscription Fee of our world class environmental health management solution.

Designed in collaboration with Environmental health Officers (EHOs), Health Manager integrates seamlessly with your ERP solution, delivering the visibility and insight needed to drive strategic planning.

Our solution provides a reliable system to undertake assessment and compliance of food businesses and meet legislated obligations regarding health inspections of food premises.

[Complete the form](#)

This offer only lasts until **30 June 2023**, so register your interest today to avoid missing out. Fill out [this form](#) and reference this email to claim your discount!

Want to see Health Manager in action?

Register for our webinar on Tuesday 6th June to see why our customers prefer our Health Manager solution to manage and support their environmental health activities.



Date: 06/06/2023



Time: 1.00 pm AEST

[Register now!](#)



To find out more about our Health Manager solution, [click here](#).



First for Training

By Andrew Mathieson



ENDORSED FOOD SAFETY TRAINING—BASED ON RISK.

We are an Australian owned and operated company, specialising in online training endorsed by EHA (TAS & NSW). We are an associate member of EHA (National)

FFT uses the proven Highfield e-learning platform, delivering best-in-class, award winning training, posters and booklets.

Councils can pay an annual subscription and offer local food business free access to our food safety training.

We are developing with EHA a series of high quality, online Food Safety Training including;

- 'essential' (all food handlers),
- 'top up to level 1' (all f/t food handlers),
- Level1(full time/high risk food handlers),

Animation, narration, interactive tasks, quizzes, and puzzles, to enrich the learning experience.

We work with dozens of councils, schools, and companies, across Australia to deliver an excellent training experience.

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andrew@firstfortraining.com.au

0421134851

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- ✓ get certified on the same day or take your time
- ✓ be confident your qualification is Environmental Health Australia endorsed
- ✓ stay up-to-date with complimentary newsletters
- ✓ attempt the assessment as many times as needed
- ✓ all courses are available in a 'white label format' ready for your branding/hosting
- ✓ unlimited access to course/ learning over 12months



Endorsed by Environmental Health Australia (TAS) and (NSW).



Recognised internationally.



Non-accredited, therefore cost-effective.



Certificate of completion for both essential and top up to Level 1.



CPD, technical training and other resources available online.



So what do you know about Glow2Show?

- Kid safe
- Non toxic, vegan.
- Australian made
- Different size available pocket (30ml) to bulk refill (5ltr)
- Great for hand and surface cleaning training and checking.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Do you have something to contribute to the EHA National Newsletter?

**Get in touch with our National Communications Officer and newsletter editor,
Samantha Smith to discuss articles, advertising and more.**

National Communications Officer



samantha.smith@eh.org.au

or

national@eh.org.au



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