

# Annual Report 2006-2007

Australian Institute of Environmental Health

ABN 58 000 031 998

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# Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*National President  
(July 1, 2006-March  
13, 2007)  
Immediate Past  
President (since  
March 14, 2007)*

**Bruce Morton, MAIEH**

Bruce has been working in the area of Environmental Health with local and State government since he graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1993 and is currently employed as the Director, Environmental Health Services, West Moreton Population Health Unit, Queensland Health. Bruce also holds qualifications of a Master of Health Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion and Graduate Certificate in Management.

He joined the AIEH as a student member in 1990 and has been a full member since 1994. Bruce was elected to the Queensland Division State Council in 1997 and has held a number of positions on the Council. He has been a National Board Director since 2002, holding a number of positions during his time, and is currently on the 2008 IFEH World Congress Organising Committee. Bruce is the Immediate Past National President of the AIEH.



*National President  
(since March 14, 2007)*

**Dr Jim Smith, LFAIEH**

Jim is a Director of the Infocus Management Group Pty Ltd and has been providing public health management services for almost twenty years to government, industry and community sectors. In the government and community sectors services have been primarily in public health strategic planning and facilitation, and in the private sector food safety and risk management services. Jim commenced his professional life in 1973 as a general nurse before qualifying in environmental health. Apart from nursing Jim's background includes local and state government environmental health service delivery, management, university teaching and research, and business management.

Jim's research interests are intergovernmental relations in public health, the history and development of the local government public and environmental health role, environmental health education and practice, and food safety policy. Jim has been an active member of the AIEH for many years and currently chairs the Board's Environmental Health Course Advisory Committee, facilitates the Educators' Forum, and is the Editor of Environmental Health. In the past he has been President of the Victorian Branch (1998-2002), a Board Director (1999 - 2003), National Vice-President (2000 - 2003), and the Board's Policy and Governance Adviser (2003-06). In 2002 Jim was elevated to Life Fellow of the AIEH for his services to the Institute.



*Vice President*

**Fleur Cousins, MAIEH**

Fleur holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) and Diploma of Management and has been working in the area of Environmental Health for 11 years within local government and is currently employed by Knox City Council in the role of Co-ordinator Health Services.

Fleur has been actively involved with the Victorian Branch of the AIEH since 1997 and has held the positions of Associate State Councilor, State Councilor, State Conference committee member and secretary of the Food Safety Special Interest Group. Most recently Fleur has been in the role of Branch President from August 2003 to August 2005 and joined the Board of Directors in August 2003.

During her time on the Board, Fleur has held the position of Chair of the Finance Management Committee, Convener of the 2004 National Conference held in Melbourne, Co-convener of the 2006 National Conference held in Sydney and is currently National Vice President.

Fleur has a real passion for the Environmental Health profession and is committed to enhancing the role of the AIEH to support Environmental Health Practitioners.

# Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Vice President  
(July 1, 2006-  
March 8, 2007)*

### Philip Swain, FAIEH

Philip initially completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) Degree at Curtin University of Technology in 1987. He also holds a Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management from that Institution and is currently studying Environmental Design at the University of Western Australia.

Philip is currently the Director Community Services at the City of Nedlands in Perth. He has worked in various local governments, initially as a trainee for four years, and as an Environmental Health Officer for over 18 years. Philip was first elected as a State Councilor in 1989 and was appointed Vice President in 1991. He has worked on numerous working parties and Committees, on a variety of subjects, for the AIEH since that time. Formerly a Director from 1992 to 1994, Philip rejoined the Board in 2004. Originally joining the membership in 1988 as an Associate Member, Philip was advanced to the status of Fellow in 2004.



*Vice President  
(since March 14, 2007)*

### Joseph Zappavigna, MAIEH

In 1992 Joseph Zappavigna completed his Bachelor of Science (Environmental Health) at Curtin University in WA and in 1997 completed his Graduate Diploma (Environmental Science) at Murdoch University also in WA. In the same year he was awarded, jointly with a current colleague, the 1992 Harold Salter Award for students showing the highest level of professional potential during the study of environmental health.

Joseph has just completed his eleventh year as an Environmental Health Officer at the City of Fremantle in Western Australia and between 1992 and 1995 he worked for the City of Perth (three years) and the Town of Victoria Park (four months).

Since 1992 Joseph has been a member of AIEH from third year Student and progressed his membership from Associate to Member status with AIEH in 1994.

Joseph has consistently been elected to WA/NT Branch Council since 1998. During his time on Branch Council he has been involved in various committees, including legislation review and food safety. Particularly Joseph's interests are in the environmental management field of the Environmental Health profession and he continues to coordinate the WA/NT Branch Environmental Management Special Interest Group.

In June 2004 Joseph was elected as a Director on the Board of AIEH and has

most recently participated with the CEO and the other Directors in the strategic plan review of AIEH. Joseph plans to remain with AIEH as a member, a Branch Councillor and a Director for as long as possible. He urges those Environmental Health Practitioners considering becoming an AIEH member to act now to make their contribution to the worthwhile profession of environmental health.

# Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Director*  
*(July 1-Nov 9, 2006)*

### **Michael Livori, FAIEH**

Michael has been in the Environmental Health profession for 24 years.

He holds an Associate Diploma in Health Surveying, a Certificate in Management and Organisational Leadership, a Graduate Certificate of Management, and is currently enrolled in a MBA at Deakin University.

His current position is Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Health Authority. The Authority is a "Regional Subsidiary" which provides Environmental Health Services to six local government authorities in metropolitan Adelaide.

Michael has represented the AIEH on various groups and committees including ministerial appointments to the Food Reform Taskforce and Public & Environmental Health Council and held the position of Branch President for 5 years.



*Director*  
*(since Nov 9, 2006)*

### **Associate Professor Nancy Cromar, MAIEH**

Associate Professor Nancy Cromar (BSc Hons, PhD, Napier University, Edinburgh) is currently Postgraduate Academic Coordinator in the Dept of Environmental Health at Flinders University. Her research focus is on health-related aspects of water quality and microbiological risk assessment with specific interest in survival of pathogenic microorganisms in aquatic environments. Dr Cromar is the senior editor of the new Oxford University Press text 'Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand'. She has been Convenor of the National Short Courses in Environmental Health since 1996 and an 'expert member' of the Public & Environmental Health Council of SA since 1995. She also chairs the Advisory Board for the AIEH journal Environmental Health. Dr Cromar recently received the AIEH (SA) award for 'Outstanding Individual Environmental Health Professional of the Year'.



*Director*

### **Ron Fry, MAIEH**

Ron has been an Environmental Health Officer since 1986 and is employed by the Hobart City Council. He joined the AIEH in 1987 and was elected on the Tasmanian Branch Council in 2003. He holds a Diploma of Applied Science (Environmental Health) awarded by the Institute of TAFE Tasmania in 1996.

Ron has gained experience in the profession working with other councils in the greater Hobart area, the North West coast of Tasmania and for a short period with the Department of Health and Human Services in the area of food safety. In 1995 he joined the Institute of TAFE Tasmania where he taught a number of subjects in the current Advanced Diploma of Environmental Health course for eight years. During this time he was awarded a Bachelor of Adult Vocation and Education from the University of Tasmania. He also delivers food handler training to food business operators for the Hobart City Council.

Ron is Senior Vice President of the Tasmanian Branch of the AIEH.

# Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Director*

**Eric Johnson, MAIEH**

Eric qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1981 and worked for several years with the Hobart City Council before moving to the State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He joined the AIEH in the early 80s and is a current member of the Tasmanian Branch Council.

Eric's duties with DHHS are centered on formulating and implementing State food policy and legislation and managing the small food safety team. He has significant day-to-day contact with Tasmanian Local Government EHOs on all matters concerning food safety and also represents the State on several national food safety forums including the Implementation Sub Committee.



*Director  
(since Nov 9, 2006)*

**Stephen Davidson, FAIEH**

Stephen's qualifications include a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health), Diploma in Applied Science and a Diploma in Horticulture. He joined the AIEH as a member in 1993. Stephen was Vice President of the NSW Division and joined the AIEH Board as a Director in 2001, during which time he held the positions of Executive Director and National President from 2003 to 2004. Stephen is also a past member of Restaurant & Catering NSW (Gold Licence Accreditation) Board.

Stephen's background includes Environmental Health Management, TAFE lecturer, Horticulture and Business Management.

Stephen's well regarded experience includes managing teams of environmental and public health specialists throughout many major events such as the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Sydney Royal Easter Show, Rugby World Cup and all major sporting and entertainment activities at Sydney Olympic Park. Stephen has advised State and Federal Government bodies on environmental health matters and represented the profession and the AIEH on many key committees and working parties.

# Branch Presidents

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Management  
Committee Chair  
(July 1, 2006  
-February 1, 2007)  
New South Wales/  
ACT Branch  
President  
(since Feb 1, 2007)*

**Graham Pares, FAIEH**

Graham has been the Branch President/ Management Committee Chair of NSW/ACT Branch since 2002, a former Director on the AIEH Board from October 2002 and National President of the AIEH. During that time he has served in positions on the Finance Management Committee and assisted the executive in many of the achievements of the past years.

Presently employed as Coordinator Environmental Health at Penrith City Council, Graham's career has included working in large rural centres and some the largest metropolitan Councils in NSW. A country boy born and bred, Graham benefited from entering the profession through a traineeship with the local Council and is a keen advocate for the blending of educational and practical experiences.

Having previously spent several years as an environmental health consultant to local government, Graham is aware of the challenges that the shortage of qualified environmental health practitioners presents and is focused on ensuring that the AIEH is capable of providing the leadership necessary to address these challenges.



*Queensland Branch  
President*

**Virgil Kelk, FAIEH**

Virgil commenced work with the Queensland Department of Health as a cadet health inspector in January 1971. He has worked with Qld Health since that time and holds the position of Director of Environmental Health Services for the Darling Downs Population Health Unit based in Toowoomba. Virgil has responsibility for a wide range of environmental health issues including drugs and poisons, foods, communicable diseases and environmental toxicology. While based in Toowoomba, the area that Virgil has responsibility for is mostly rural and remote, includes 36 local governments and covers an area that is more than half the size of New South Wales.

Virgil has a significant interest in water quality and disaster management. He has been involved in the delivery of the AIEH's Disaster Management for Public Health Course in Queensland since its inception in 1997 and was awarded an Excellence Award for his work in disaster management in 2005. Virgil was advanced to the status of Fellow of the AIEH in 2002.



*South Australian  
Branch President  
(July 1-Dec 1, 2006)*

**Cathy Isbester, FAIEH**

Cathy has been a committed and active Councillor of the South Australian Branch since 1995 and is serving her second term as Branch President. Having previously held positions of Vice President of the Branch, and Director and Vice President on the Board of Directors, Cathy has represented the AIEH and profession on numerous committees including a ministerial appointment to the Public and Environmental Health Council. Her current AIEH activities are focused on her role as Branch President and the development of an emergency management training program for environmental health officers in South Australia.

Cathy has been employed in the environmental health profession for 14 years gaining broad experience while working individually and in a team setting in the disciplines of environmental health. She has led several strategic planning projects such as the development of Public and Environmental Health Management Plans for three Councils and a pilot project to demonstrate the potential for community emergency risk management in a metropolitan setting. Currently appointed by the City of Mitcham, Cathy is employed as an Environmental Health Officer.

Cathy was advanced to the status of Fellow of the AIEH in 2001.

# Branch Presidents

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*South Australian  
Branch President  
(since Dec 1, 2006)*

### Ian Hawkins, MAIEH

Ian's journey along the Environmental Health Profession began with employment as an Environmental Health Officer in Local Government approx. 15 years ago. In this time he has worked with a number of employers in South Australia and the United Kingdom and now manages the Environmental Health and General Inspectorate at the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. Ian enjoys the challenges and variety of public health at the local level and the challenge of presiding over Branch Council and maintaining the momentum of member events, professional support and direction benefiting the AIEH.

*Tasmanian Branch  
President*

### Mark Dwyer, MAIEH

Mark commenced his public health career in 1978 as a cadet health inspector with the Hobart City Council. Twenty nine years later he is now the Manager Environmental Health at the same council and continues to find the job exciting, challenging and stimulating. The transformation of local government in Tasmania from a sleeping dinosaur into a vibrant and competitive business over this period has certainly fuelled his enthusiasm to remain an active public health professional at 'the coalface'.

Mark's other professional interests include presiding over the AIEH's Branch activities in Tasmania. Mark believes that there is much to accomplish and achieve for the members and EHOs alike, and it is very gratifying to be working on Branch Council with such a keen, motivated and dedicated group of people that share the same goal. His final career-orientated academic challenge is to study and qualify for the new Bachelor of Environmental Health that will soon be offered at the University of Tasmania. Mark's ambitions at this stage of his career are to maintain good health, a trim waistline, a sense of humour and the current level of enthusiasm for his career and the AIEH.

*Victorian Branch  
President  
(July 1-Sept, 2006)*

### Andrew Demidowski, MAIEH

Andrew Demidowski has been working within Local Government for 22 years spanning six Councils, namely the City of Melbourne, Shire of Hampden, City of Berwick, City of Dandenong, City of Greater Dandenong and now City of Yarra. During this time he has undertaken many responsibilities within each organisation and has continuously upgraded his skills by undertaking numerous small courses and workshops, and completing a Diploma of Business Management together with a Certificate 3 Frontline Business Management.

Over the last 10 years Andrew has worked his way through the system with the Victorian Branch of the AIEH as Group Secretary Eastern & Southern Region for 3 years, Convenor of the Immunisation & Communicable Diseases SIG and Vice President before being elected President in 2005. During this time he has managed the implementation of the Swimming Pool & Spa Monitoring Workshop, developed an audit tool and related policy for the Personal Care and Body Art Industry Guidelines, and lastly implemented a Business Plan and Service Charter for the benefit of members.

# Branch Presidents

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Victorian Branch  
President  
(since Sept 26, 2006)*

### Geoff Fraser, MAIEH

Geoff has 20 years local government environmental health experience across rural and metropolitan Councils, including a role as Director of Planning and Environment during Council amalgamations.

His current role is Business Unit Leader Environmental Health for the diverse municipality of Greater Dandenong and during 6 years has overseen the prosecution of some 200 cases under the Victorian Food and Health Acts and developed a team focused on regulatory compliance. Greater Dandenong has permitted great freedom in developing a team of professionals that are widely respected as having some of Australia's best Environmental health knowledge.

In addition to the Diploma of Environmental Health Geoff holds a Bachelor of Business Management and assists EHOs to consider "the business of food". He is always seeking development opportunities for EHOs.

Geoff lives on the beach and enjoys the beach lifestyle with wife Kirstin, son Aaron and Jack Russel Reno.



*Western Australian  
and Northern  
Territory Branch  
President*

### Darren Ponton, MAIEH

Darren Ponton is currently the Environmental Health Co-ordinator at the City of Perth, a position he has held for twelve years, having worked at the City of Perth in environmental health positions for 20 years. He is AIEH WA/NT Branch President, Chairperson of the National FoodSafe® Committee, and former Food Safety Special Interest group Convenor in WA. Through his employment at City of Perth he is currently a member of the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee and Perth City Alcohol Accord. As well as a Degree in Environmental Health, his qualifications include an MBA in Health Services Administration, and Graduate Diplomas in Public Health, Health Administration and Public Sector Management.

Darren started as a student member of the Institute in 1984, and progressed through Associate to full Membership. He became a State Councillor for a period in the early 1990s, returning in 2004, becoming Branch Vice President in 2005 and President of the WA/NT Branch at its Branch General Meeting in May 2006.



# Management and Staff

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health



*Board Policy and  
Governance Advisor*

### Dr Jim Smith, LFAIEH

Jim is a Director of the Infocus Management Group Pty Ltd and has been providing public health management services for eighteen years to government, industry and the community sectors. Jim's background includes nursing, environmental health, management, university teaching and research, and business management. Jim was the Chief Environmental Health Officer, Victorian Department of Health (1989 – 1992) and chaired a number of food safety advisory committees. Jim's public health management interests are in local strategic planning and facilitation, policy development, and professional development and he has provided consultancy services to numerous local government authorities and state government departments. In the industry sector Jim has been a consultant on food safety policy to a number of industry peak organisations and provides food safety management services to both small and multinational businesses. His research interests are intergovernmental relations in public health, the history and development of the local government public health role, and food safety policy.

Jim has been an active member of the AIEH for many years and currently chairs the Board's Environmental Health Course Advisory Committee, facilitates the Educators' Forum, and is the Editor of Environmental Health. In the past he has been President of the Victorian Branch (1998-2002), a Board Director (1999 – 2003) and National Vice President (2000 – 2003) and was elevated to Life Fellow of the AIEH in 2002 for his services to the Institute.



*Chief Executive  
Officer and  
Company Secretary*

### Waikay Lau, MAIEH

Prior to joining AIEH Waikay was recruited by Dow Jones to manage the circulation marketing of *The Asian Wall Street Journal* in Asia-Pacific. Based in Hong Kong his role included the development of regional and country-specific marketing programs as well as establishing partnership agreements with multi-national corporations. Waikay advanced quickly to become *The Asian Wall Street Journal's* Country Manager for Taiwan where he established and headed the country's business operations. Soon after he was promoted to Regional Circulation Manager overseeing the sales and marketing of the business daily in Greater China; China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 1999 Waikay joined WSJ.com (Wall Street Journal Online) as the Marketing & Circulation Director for the Asia-Pacific region, reporting directly to the Dow Jones headquarters in New York. His responsibility included brand building, marketing, promotions, and product sales in over 13 Asia-Pacific countries.

In 2001 Waikay and his family returned to Australia for a quieter life to raise their children. Waikay has a BSc. Environmental Studies from Griffith University and an MBA in International Management and enjoys his volunteer work with WWF and the Heart Foundation. He is very much involved with his daughter's primary school and is the President of the P&C Committee.

# Management and Staff

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Australian Institute of Environmental Health as at June 2007

## Executive Committee

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*Jim Smith (Chair)*  
*Joseph Zappavigna*  
*Fleur Cousins*

## Audit Committee

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*Stephen Davidson (Chair)*  
*Eric Johnson*  
*Nancy Cromar*

## National Finance Officer

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*Bernadet Ferraro*

## Executive Officers

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*Margaret Hind, New South Wales/ACT*  
*Jo Rolls, Queensland*  
*Mina Labaz, South Australia*  
*Bernadet Ferraro, Victoria & Tasmania*  
*Jenny Johns, Western Australia & Northern Territory (1 July, 2006 – 10 November, 2006)*  
*Jackie Breasley, Western Australia & Northern Territory (Since 19 February, 2007)*

## AIEH Course Accreditation Subcommittee

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*Jim Smith (Chair)*  
*Owen Ashby*  
*Bruce Morton*  
*Ron Fry*  
*Thomas Tenkate*  
*Waikay Lau*

## IFEH 2008 World Congress Committee

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*Peter Davey (Chair)*  
*Bruce Morton*  
*Virgil Kelk*  
*Jo Rolls*  
*Waikay Lau*

## IFEH 2008 World Congress Regional Asia Pacific Group Committee

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*IFEH Representative from environmental health associations in Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia*

# Management and Staff

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Australian Institute of Environmental Health as at June 2007

## **Environmental Health Advisory Board**

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*Dr Jim Smith, Editor*

*Associate Professor Nancy Cromar, Chair*

*Dr Thomas Tenkate, Queensland University of Technology*

*Jan Bowman, Department of Human Services, Victoria*

*Dr Ron Pickett, Curtin University*

*Bruce Morton, Director, Australian Institute of Environmental Health*

*Waikay Lau, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Environmental Health*

## **Editorial Team**

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*Dr Jim Smith, Editor*

*Associate Professor Heather Gardner, Associate Editor*

*Jaelyn Huntley, Assistant Editor*

*Dr Thomas Tenkate, Book Editor*

## **Editorial Committee**

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*Mr Owen Ashby, Department of Health, WA*

*Professor Ross Bailie, Menzies School of Health Research*

*Associate Professor Dean Bertolatti, Curtin University of Technology*

*Mr Hudson H. Birden, Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney*

*Mr Peter Davey, Griffith University*

*Dr Chris Derry, University of Western Sydney*

*Ms Louise Dunn, Swinburne University*

*Professor Howard Fallowfield, Flinders University*

*Mr Ian Foulkes, The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, London*

*Mr Stuart Heggie, Department of Health & Human Services, Tasmania*

*Ms Jane Heyworth, University of Western Australia*

*Professor Steve Hrudey, University of Alberta, Canada*

*Professor Michael Jackson, University of Strathclyde, Scotland*

*Mr Ross Jackson, Maddocks, Melbourne*

*Mr George Kupfer, Underwriters Laboratories Inc, Illinois, USA*

*Professor Vivian Lin, La Trobe University*

*Dr Bruce Macler, U.S. Environment Protection Agency*

*Dr Anne Neller, University of the Sunshine Coast*

*Professor Peter Newman, Murdoch University*

*Dr Eric Noji, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Atlanta, USA*

*Dr Dino Pisaniello, Adelaide University*

*Dr Scott Ritchie, Tropical Public Health Unit, Cairns*

*Professor Rod Simpson, University of the Sunshine Coast*

*Dr Jim Smith, Australian Institute of Environmental Health, Victoria*

*Dr Peter Stephenson, Batchelor Institute, NT*

*Dr Melissa Stoneham, Australian Institute of Environmental Health, WA*

*Ms Isobel Stout, Christchurch City Council, New Zealand*

*Ms Glenda Verrinder, La Trobe University Bendigo*

*Dr James M. Wilson, ISIS Center, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, USA*

*Dr Amanda E. Young, Center for Disability Research, Massachusetts, USA*

# Registered Offices

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Australian Institute of Environmental Health as at June 2007

## National Office

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Local Government House  
Level 1, 25 Evelyn Street  
Newstead Brisbane QLD 4006  
Phone: 07 3711 3308  
Fax: 07 3252 9084  
Mob: 0412 628 500

Postal Address  
PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006  
  
Email: [national@aieh.org.au](mailto:national@aieh.org.au)  
Internet site: [www.aieh.org.au](http://www.aieh.org.au)

## Environmental Health Journal Office

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Environmental Health Journal  
Level 3, 17 – 27 Cotham Road  
Kew VIC 3101  
Phone: 03 9855 2444  
Fax: 03 9855 2442  
Email: [jim.smith@aieh.org.au](mailto:jim.smith@aieh.org.au)

## Branch Offices

### New South Wales / ACT Branch

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PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006  
Phone: 02 9181 3320  
Mobile: 0448 606 002  
Fax: 07 3252 9084  
Email: [nsw@aieh.org.au](mailto:nsw@aieh.org.au)

### Queensland Branch

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PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006  
Phone: 07 3000 2299  
Mobile: 0448 606 001  
Fax: 07 3252 9084  
Email: [qld@aieh.org.au](mailto:qld@aieh.org.au)

## Branch Offices

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### South Australian Branch

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PO Box 168  
Unley SA 5061  
Phone: 08 8271 9885  
Mobile: 0448 606 005  
Fax: 08 8271 9885  
Email: [sa@aieh.org.au](mailto:sa@aieh.org.au)

### Tasmanian Branch

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GPO Box 2154  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: 03 9438 5960  
Mobile: 0448 606 004  
Fax: 03 9438 5955  
Email: [tas@aieh.org.au](mailto:tas@aieh.org.au)

### Victorian Branch

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PO Box 378  
Diamond Creek VIC 3089  
Phone: 03 9438 5960  
Mobile: 0448 606 004  
Fax: 03 9438 5955  
Email: [vic@aieh.org.au](mailto:vic@aieh.org.au)

### Western Australian & Northern Territory Branch

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PO Box 597  
Victoria Park WA 6100  
Phone: 08 9361 3112  
Mobile: 0448 606 006  
Fax: 08 9361 2198  
Email: [wa@aieh.org.au](mailto:wa@aieh.org.au)

For a current listing of AIEH Directors, management and staff, and current contact details please refer to [www.aieh.org.au](http://www.aieh.org.au)



## Introduction

The National Food Safety Standard requires people working with food to have skills and knowledge of food hygiene matters.

FoodSafe® was developed by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health in consultation with government, academia, industry and consumers. FoodSafe® is an in-house training program bringing basic food hygiene information directly to food handlers.

With new food establishments opening every day, more people are eating out more often, and food poisoning is on the increase. As people now take legal action when something goes wrong, it makes sense for proprietors to protect themselves by making sure their product are as safe as possible. FoodSafe® is an ideal first step towards safer food.

FoodSafe® is particularly useful in jurisdictions that have mandatory requirement for each food business to appoint a Food Safety Supervisor (Victoria and Queensland). The Food Safety Supervisor can meet their business's obligation to ensure food handlers have adequate skills and knowledge, because FoodSafe® provides the tools to train staff in-house. The FoodSafe® Certificate and window sticker reward those businesses with trained staff.

## Benefits of FoodSafe®

- Flexible, affordable in-house training format overcoming problems of money, time and access to training
- Proprietors can use the FoodSafe® sticker and certificate to show their commitment to food safety
- Local government EHOs can use FoodSafe® as a tool to work with proprietors to improve food safety standards
- Ensure compliance with food safety legislation
- Local government EHOs and proprietors can monitor progress using a FoodSafe® Hygiene Audit

## The Product

The FoodSafe® Food Handler Training Program consists of:

- FoodSafe DVD
- Recording charts CD
- Workbook
- Guide for Proprietors

The DVD is designed to entertain and get your staff thinking about food safety. It uses humour and mime to demonstrate the "wrong" and "right" way of working. The DVD also contains an introductory video called 'Welcome to FoodSafe®' which outlines how FoodSafe® works from the point of view of a food business operator, which can be used to demonstrate FoodSafe® to businesses, management and elected members. Plus the story is told in six Asian languages.

The CD contains all forms used in the FoodSafe® Program.

The Workbook uses cartoons to help reinforce the DVD messages. An answer sheet is used to help food handlers assess their understanding of food hygiene.

The Guide for Proprietors details the FoodSafe® practices that help businesses handle their food with care. These include temperature monitoring, delivery monitoring and implementation of a cleaning program.

## What Does it Cost?

FoodSafe® Food Handler Training Program costs just \$99 plus postage and handling. Buy a FoodSafe® Twinpack for \$179.50 plus postage and handling and save.

## Want to Know More?

For further information contact 1800 093 000 or visit our website [www.aieh.org.au](http://www.aieh.org.au).



Australian  
Institute of  
Environmental  
Health

## Open Office Making Life Easier For EHOs

Simplify your Food Premises Inspection process by recording AFSA inspections directly onto a handheld PDA whilst on site at your client's premises. No more messy paperwork or duplicating tasks.

The AIEH and Open Office have teamed up to make available this easy, cost effective management tool to all EHOs in local and state government across Australia.

Open Office is Australia's leading supplier of Environmental Health software with over 100 customers throughout Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory and Hong Kong.

Open Office's primary business focus is on the development and implementation of workflow based applications, with particular emphasis on Customer Relationship Management, Environmental Health Management and IT Support

AFSA forms in electronic format are available through the AIEH, [www.aieh.org.au](http://www.aieh.org.au), whilst Open Office provides the software to manage your data.

For more information logon to [www.openoffice.com.au/eAFSA](http://www.openoffice.com.au/eAFSA) or contact Open Office on (03) 9738 2500.



Open Office Pty. Ltd.  
Phone: (03) 9738 2500 Fax: (03) 9738 2600  
Email: [open.office@openoffice.com.au](mailto:open.office@openoffice.com.au)  
Web: [www.openoffice.com.au](http://www.openoffice.com.au)

# Letter from the National President

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

Dear Members,

I would like to commence by saying thank you to my colleague Bruce Morton for undertaking the role of National President up until March this year. Bruce has continued on the Board as a Director and holds the position of Immediate Past President. He is involved particularly with Peter Davey in the organisation of the 2008 International Federation of Environmental Health World Congress to be held in Brisbane. In November 2006 the Board accepted a recommendation from the Educator's Forum to examine environmental health workforce by conducting a Local Government Environmental Health Workforce Summit in early 2007. Much of the focus and energy of the Board has been on organizing this event which was held in July 2007. The Summit was successful in many ways including:

- it provided evidence on trends in workforce development, the future impact of demographic changes and challenges associated with future environmental health issues;
- it brought all environmental health stakeholders together including enHealth members to provide ideas on how workforce can be developed; and
- it provided the setting for the Institute to assert its leadership role in environmental health.

As a result of taking a leading role in the workforce issue, the AIEH was successful in obtaining significant funding to undertake a project in developing a local government environmental health resource. The Project consists of two stages with the first being the development of pre-reading for the Summit. This pre-reading is a distillation of the work undertaken across Australia on workforce development up to, and including, the Wall Report. Stage 2 is about to commence and its objective to develop a guideline for local government on assessing workforce environmental health risks and criteria for workforce selection. The outcome of this stage will be the development of a guideline for the assessment of risk and strategies for management of workforce for use by local government across Australia. Such a guideline would provide a consistent framework for environmental health workforce decisions.

Operationally the Board and Branch Presidents have been meeting to develop appropriate decision making processes and priorities. This, in part, has resulted in an organisational restructure of the relationships between the Board and Branches and a revision of the Due Diligence Policy. The

latter policy ensures, amongst other things, accountability to members. Subsequently, the 2007/08 budget has been developed and approved and priorities will be on ensuring services to members. Additional services approved by the Board are the long awaited implementation of the Certified Environmental Health Professional (CEHP) Scheme which will include the Mentoring Program.

The Institute's journal, *Environmental Health*, has been published according to the publication schedule and has received strong support from many professionals. The Journal as well as being our peer review publication will be an important part of the CEHP Scheme.

The Environmental Health Course Accreditation Committee has been busy conducting accreditation processes of environmental health courses around Australia and supporting the development of such courses. For the first time there has been accreditation of postgraduate environmental health courses which now offers a new pathway into EHO practice other than the traditional undergraduate pathway. Members will be pleased to note that the University of Tasmania has developed a bachelor's degree in environmental health planned to be offered in 2008. The Institute's longstanding aim of having environmental health officer degree courses in every state has, at long last, been achieved.

The last twelve months has seen the organisation going through a transition and, in particular, building capacity to undertake the leadership role in environmental health that our Constitution calls for, and is expected by members and other environmental health supporters. This transition will continue into the next year as we develop our strategic priorities around workforce and professional development, advocacy and representation, indigenous environmental health, and policy development for improved community environmental health standards.

It has been a privilege being the National President and I look forward to the future challenges. I take the opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Board, Branch Presidents and Branch Councillors, our loyal staff, and members for their support and commitment to the aims of the Institute.

**Dr Jim Smith LFAIEH**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

# Letter from the CEO

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

Dear Members,

Since joining AIEH in January of 2003, I am constantly pleased to see the high level of energy within our membership that is evident in volunteers assisting AIEH in every level of operation. From members who assist us with running workshops, seminars and conferences, Special Interest Group members, Branch Councillors to the Board of Directors, the level of participation is unsurpassed.

In the four years since I have been with AIEH, many milestones have been reached as we continue to strive towards new goals. With the completion of the AIEH Course Accreditation Policy that now includes both undergraduate and postgraduate pathways, there are now 10 different AIEH accredited environmental health degree courses in Australia with at least one university in each State delivering an accredited course. There will be an increase in the number of accredited environmental health degree courses as we continue to work with our academic colleagues. The recent AIEH Workforce Summit was a resounding success. Fully supported by all State jurisdictions, the Commonwealth and other key stakeholders, the Summit was the first step in identifying solutions in addressing the environmental health workforce issues. Stage 2 and 3 of the Workforce project will ensure the world's best practice solutions are employed in addressing the workforce issues with solid recommendations and actions underpinning these strategies.

The next major milestone for AIEH is the hosting of the 10th World Congress on Environmental Health. The theme of the Congress is "Environmental Health, a sustainable future – 20 years on..." Twenty years ago in 1988, as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations, AIEH hosted the inaugural IFEH World Congress of Environmental Health in Sydney. That week-long event attracted 1,300 environmental health practitioners from each State and Territory of Australia along with delegates from 23 countries. After 20 years the World Congress returns to Australia in 2008 where it will

be held in Brisbane from May 11 to 16. The World Congress will also encompass the 34th AIEH National and 68th AIEH Queensland Branch Conferences. The 10th World Congress is hosted by AIEH for its members. This is a unique opportunity for AIEH Members to present papers to national and international peers, and the program and events are designed for members to learn and share experiences with some of the world's leading environmental health practitioners. This World Congress is a truly remarkable opportunity not to be missed.

This year we launched the latest AIEH Professional Tool, I'M ALERT Food Safety Training CD, which complements the AIEH FoodSafe® and AFSA Programs. The uptake for I'M ALERT has been very positive and with the support of our members we envisage every council in Australia using and recommending these tools in the promotion of food safety.

Having outgrown our previous website, the new Portal will be launched in the new financial year. The portal is a dynamic project and will constantly be evolving to reflect the changes over time.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the fourth year of consecutive profit for AIEH. In the financial year 2007, revenue from ordinary operations was \$1.37 million netting a modest gross profit of \$56,284. Our cash flow and balance sheet continues to be in a strong position, poised to take advantage of any opportunity that is beneficial to our members and organisation.

I would like to conclude by thanking all our members, staff, supporters and sponsors, for without your time, dedication and support, AIEH would not be the organisation that it is today.

**Waikay Lau MAIEH**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# I'M ALERT FOOD SAFETY

Interactive Food Safety Training

**EDUCATED**

Food Business Operators

+

**EDUCATED**

Food Business Staff

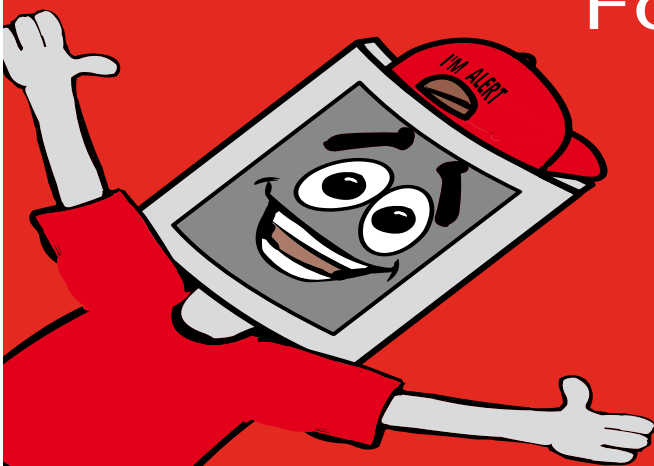
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**EDUCATED**

Food Industry

=

**SAFE FOOD**  
For Customers



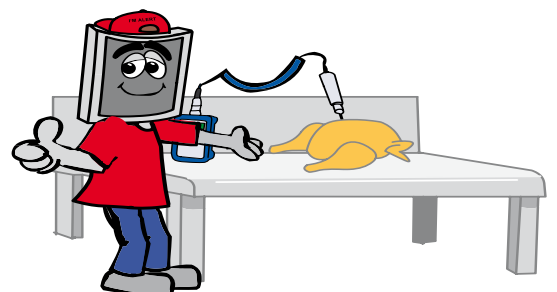
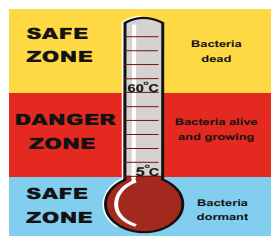
- Overview
- Foodborne Illness
- Potentially Hazardous Food
- Contamination of Food
- Temperature Control
- Food Handling Skills and Knowledge

- Food Receipt
- Food Storage
- Food Processing
- Food Display
- Food Packaging
- Food Transportation
- Food Disposal

- Food Recall
- Health of Persons Who Handle Food
- Hygiene of Food Handlers
- General Duties of Food Businesses
- Cleanliness

- Cleaning and Sanitising of Specific Equipment
- Structure, Design and Maintenance
- Temperature Measuring Devices
- Single Use Items

- Animals and Pests
- Management Control Techniques (HACCP, Food Safety Programs)



# Audit Committee Report

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Purpose

The Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) Audit Committee (Committee) is an Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors that assists the Directors and AIEH Management in fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to accounting and reporting practices, management of risk, maintenance of internal controls, operation of good governance practices and facilitation of sound organizational ethics.

### Role

The Committee does not have any management functions or independent authority. The committee operates independently of management and consequently should be objective in relation to the AIEH operations. The Committee may provide recommendations to the Board and/or the Chief Executive Officer. The Committee, through the Chief Executive Officer and within the scope of its terms of reference, may seek information or obtain expert legal advice on matters of their concern. The Committee will report to the Board of Directors as required throughout the year. The Committee will provide the Board with an annual report on its activities and achievements for inclusion in the company annual report.

### Terms of Reference

The duties and responsibilities of the Committee are;

- To consider matters brought to its attention by the Board, Directors, Chief Executive Officer or external auditors;
- To review the company's draft annual financial statements prior to its approval by the Board; focusing particularly on;
  - o Significant changes in accounting policies and practices
  - o Major judgmental areas
  - o Significant audit adjustments
  - o Proposed departures from accounting standards
  - o Significant variances from previous years
  - o Significant legal risk or contractual exposures;
- To receive advice from external auditor as to whether they have had full and open access to all personnel and information required to complete the audit;
- To discuss matters arising from the external audit with the external auditor and to obtain regular reports from the Chief Executive Officer and auditors concerning the resolution of the matters raised;
- To undertake an Internal Audit Program;
- To review the scope of the internal audit program (nature, timing and extent) and the effectiveness of the function;
- To ensure that the Internal Audit Program systematically addresses over time:
  - o Internal controls over significant areas of risk,
  - o Internal controls over revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities,
  - o The efficiency, effectiveness and economy of significant company programs/services,
  - o Compliance with statutes, regulations, policies, procedures and best practice guidelines
  - o Contracts;
- To review reports of the Internal Audit Program and obtain regular advice concerning the resolution of matters raised;
- To monitor the risk exposure of the company by determining if there are adequate risk management processes over financial and non financial risks and to monitor the operation of these processes and controls;
- To monitor organizational ethical standards and related party transactions by determining if the systems of controls in place are adequate;
- To consider submissions of non-ethical behaviour of members and investigate such claims;
- To monitor the practices covering effective governance of the company's operations, including the primary good governance characteristics of fairness, discipline, independence, accountability, responsibility, transparency and social responsibility;
- To identify and request any specific projects or investigations deemed necessary through the Chief Executive Officer;
- To obtain and review Chief Executive Officer, accountant and External Auditor reports and advice concerning:
  - o The adequacy of information systems
  - o The adequacy and timeliness of financial reports received by the Board

# Audit Committee Report

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

- o AIEH company compliance with statutory requirements for financial reporting
  - o The adequacy of the internal control environment established by the Chief Executive Officer,
  - o Significant transactions outside of the Company's normal business,
  - o Compliance with regulations, policies, procedures and contractual arrangements relevant to the Company's activities,
  - o The implementation status of major Company/ Board projects;
- To facilitate the enhancement of the credibility and objectivity of internal and external financial reporting;
  - To report to the Board as necessary on any issues considered appropriate and within the Committee's purpose and scope of the terms of reference.

### Membership of the Committee

The membership of the Audit committee shall comprise;

- One Executive Director, who will be appointed Chairperson.
- Two Non Executive Directors
- The Accountant
- The Chief Executive Officer, who is an ex-officio member.

### Term of Appointment of Directors

The term of each director will be for a maximum period of three years from the date of appointment following which the Board may reappoint the director or advertise for expressions of interest to appoint a new director. Where a casual vacancy is created with the departure of a director from the Committee, the position will be filled by the Board.

### Meetings

- Meetings of the Committee will be held approximately 4 times per year at approximately 3 monthly intervals. A schedule of meetings will be developed and agreed to by the members.
- Other staff members may attend meetings at the request of the CEO or Executive Director where issues require clarification.

- External Auditor representatives will attend when required.
- The quorum for each meeting of the committee will be a simple majority of the members of whom 2 must be directors.

### Minutes

Minutes will be taken of each Committee meeting and will include issues discussed, general outcomes of discussions and formal resolutions of the Committee. The attendance of Committee members and invitees will be recorded.

Minutes will be presented for formal endorsement at the next meeting of the Committee.

The endorsed minutes of each meeting will be provided to the Board as soon as practicable after the meeting.

### Reporting

The Committee will report to the Board as necessary on any issues considered appropriate and within the Committee's Terms of Reference throughout the year. An annual report will be presented to the Board summarizing the activities of the Committee undertaken during the year for inclusion in the company Annual Report.

The endorsed minutes of each meeting of the Committee will be provided to all Directors as soon as practicable after each meeting.

Stephen Davidson FAIEH  
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

# Report of the Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2007.

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

B. Morton, F. Cousins, M. Livori, E. Johnson, J. Zappavigna, P. Swain, R. Fry, N. Cromar, S. Davidson, J. Smith.

During the financial year, seven (7) meetings of directors were held. Set out below are details of each person that was a director during the financial year, the number of meetings attended by each director and number of meetings each director was eligible to attend (shown in brackets).

<i>Directors During the Financial Year 2006-2007</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
B. Morton	(5/7)
F. Cousins	(5/7)
M. Livori	(2/2) (retired 9th November 2006)
E. Johnson	(6/7)
J. Zappavigna	(7/7)
P. Swain	(3/4) (resigned 14th March 2007)
R. Fry	(5/7)
N. Cromar	(5/5) (appointed 9th November 2006)
S. Davidson	(5/5) (appointed 9th November 2006)
J. Smith	(3/3) (appointed 14th March 2007)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

The profit of the company for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$56,284.

A review of the operations of the company during the financial year and the results of those operations found only minimal changes to revenue or expenditure.

No significant changes in the company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to promote and encourage the interest and practice of environmental health, to disseminate knowledge regarding environmental health and to uphold the status and protect the interest of those persons entitled under law to occupy the position of environmental health officer.

There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

Likely developments in the operations of the company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the company.

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

The company is limited by guarantee and is prohibited by its objects from distributing its surplus to the members. Accordingly, no dividend has been paid or declared for the year by the company since the end of the previous financial year and up to the date of this report.

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

# Report of the Directors

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is attached.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of directors:

Director 

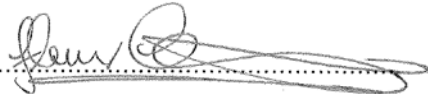
Dated this 8th day of October 2007

### DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes, as set out in this report, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2007 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. the Chief Executive Officer and National Finance Officer have each declared that:
  - (a) the financial records of the company for the financial year have been properly maintained in accordance with Section 286 of the Corporations Act 2001;
  - (b) the financial statements and notes for the financial year comply with the Accounting Standards; and
  - (c) the financial statements and notes for the financial year give a true and fair view;
3. in the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director: 

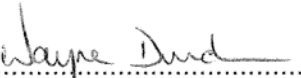
Dated this 8th day of October 2007

### AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30th June 2007 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

### E. F. McPHAIL AND PARTNERS



Partner: Wayne C. Durdin

Dated 10th October 2007

38 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128

# Independent Auditor's Report

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2007, and the income statement and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration of the company at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

#### *Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with IFRS.

#### *Audit Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Independence*

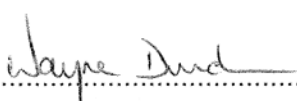
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, provided to the directors of Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited on ? would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.

#### *Audit Opinion*

In our opinion:

- (a) the financial report of Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30th June 2007 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
- (b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

### **E. F. McPHAIL AND PARTNERS**

.....  


Dated 10th October 2007

38 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	416,344	342,504
Trade & other receivables	7	129,034	50,753
Inventories	8	31,842	37,665
Other current assets	9	72,424	17,721
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>649,644</b>	<b>448,643</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Trade & other receivables	10	–	11,448
Financial assets	11	15,296	13,234
Property, plant and equipment	12	90,764	98,121
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>106,060</b>	<b>122,803</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>755,704</b>	<b>571,446</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade & other payables	13	104,399	85,368
Unearned revenue		239,081	131,385
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>343,480</b>	<b>216,753</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Long-term provisions	14	31,482	30,177
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>31,482</b>	<b>30,177</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>374,962</b>	<b>246,930</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$380,742</b>	<b>\$324,516</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Asset revaluation reserves		40,000	40,000
Retained earnings	15	339,680	283,396
Financial asset revaluation reserve		1,062	1,120
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>\$380,742</b>	<b>\$324,516</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Income Statement for the year ended 30th June 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
Revenue	2	1,376,181	1,159,006
Staffing costs		(308,370)	(285,215)
Occupancy costs		(25,877)	(26,603)
Administrative costs		(384,7500)	(291,950)
Conferences, seminars and workshop costs		(478,485)	(448,320)
Cost of goods sold	3(a)	(113,2050)	(61,560)
Depreciation and amortisation		(9,210)	(16,074)
Write down of assets		-	-
<b>Profit before income tax expense</b>		<b>56,284</b>	<b>29,284</b>
Income tax expense	4	-	-
<b>Net profit</b>		<b>\$56,284</b>	<b>\$29,284</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30th June 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from members and others		1,368,546	1,209,079
Interest received		15,291	13,552
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,308,144)	(1,123,833)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>75,693</b>	<b>98,798</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(1,853)	(5,307)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(1,853)</b>	<b>(5,307)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		73,840	93,491
Cash at beginning of year		342,504	249,013
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$416,344</b>	<b>\$342,504</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

#### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, including Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report covers the operations of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited as an individual entity. The Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health Limited complies with all International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented.

#### *Reporting Basis and Conventions*

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

#### **Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Income Tax**

The company is not liable for taxation on items of member income and expenditure which are not subject to tax consistent with the doctrine of mutuality.

The company adopts the liability method of tax-effect accounting whereby the income tax expense shown in the statement of financial performance is based on the operating surplus before income tax adjusted for any permanent differences. The adoption of this policy normally results in the existence of a deferred income tax liability or a future income tax benefit.

In addition, future income tax benefits relating to timing differences have not been included in the financial report because realisation of those benefits is not virtually certain. The value of future income tax benefits not brought to account relating to timing differences has not been quantified as the value of the future benefit is dependent upon the proportion of future non-member activities undertaken by the company.

##### **(b) Inventories**

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

##### **(c) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The carrying amount of all fixed assets is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets.

#### *Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

#### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The depreciation rates and methods used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<b>Class of Fixed Asset</b>	<b>Depreciation Rate</b>	<b>Depreciation Method</b>
Office Premises	2.5%	Straight Line
Office Equipment	11% to 40%	Diminishing & Straight Line
Leased Office Equipment	33%	Straight Line

#### (d) Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### (e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Long service leave benefits expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries and annual leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Long service leave benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the company to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

#### (f) Revenue Recognition

##### *Membership Income*

Revenue from membership fees is recognised progressively over the period to which the membership relates. Membership fees are levied on a financial year basis. The portion of membership fees received that relates to the following financial year is brought to account at balance date as membership fees received in advance (unearned revenue liability).

##### *Conference and Seminars Income*

Conference and seminars income are recognised as income and expenditure when the event is held. Any income received and expenditure incurred prior to the holding of the event are brought to account as income in advance (unearned revenue liability) and prepayments (other current assets) respectively.

##### *Grant Income*

Grant income is brought to account as income in the year in which the grant is received or receivable to the extent of the expenditure which occurred during the year towards the purpose of the grant. Unexpended grant monies for grant income received or receivable during the year, including interest thereon where required under terms of the grant, are carried forward as unexpended grants (unearned revenue liability).

##### *Sales and Other Revenue*

Sales and other revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contributions received or receivable and is recognised when the related goods or services have been provided and the income earned.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### (g) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

#### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

##### (h) Financial Instruments

###### *Recognition*

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

###### *Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss*

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management and within the requirements of AASB 139: Recognition and Measurement of Financial Instruments. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

###### *Fair Value*

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

###### *Impairment*

At each reporting date, the company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

##### (i) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

##### (j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

##### (k) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

#### Key estimates – Impairment

The company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>2. REVENUE</b>		
<i>Operating Activities:</i>		
Sales revenue	221,477	133,014
Annual subscriptions and fees	268,692	259,325
Grant income	96,009	33,636
Conferences and seminars	710,244	682,856
	<u>1,296,422</u>	<u>1,108,831</u>
<i>Non-Operating Activities:</i>		
Interest received	15,291	13,552
Distributions received	2,120	1,046
Other	62,348	35,577
	<u>79,759</u>	<u>50,175</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$1,376,181</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,159,006</u></b>
<b>3. PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>		
<i>(a) Expenses</i>		
Cost of Sales	\$ 113,205	\$ 61,560
Rental expense on operating leases:		
– Minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 1,354</u>	<u>\$ 5,417</u>
<i>(b) Significant revenues and expenses</i>		
The following significant revenue and expense items are relevant in explaining the financial performance:		
Conference and seminar activities:		
– revenue	710,244	682,856
– expenditure	<u>(478,485)</u>	<u>(448,320)</u>
<b>Contribution to operating profit</b>	<b><u>\$231,759</u></b>	<b><u>\$234,536</u></b>

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
<b>4. INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>		
Prima facie tax on profit from ordinary activities before income tax at 30% (2006: 30%)	16,885	8,785
Add/(Subtract) tax effect of:		
– Member expenses not deductible	158,022	179,840
– Other non-deductible expenditure items	7,350	9,388
– Member income not assessable	(166,322)	(186,096)
– Other deductible expenditure items	(2,763)	(4,822)
– Prior year tax losses brought to account	(13,172)	(7,095)
<b>Income tax expense attributable to operating result</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
<b>5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION</b>		
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
– Auditing or reviewing the financial report	9,520	8,000
– Acquittals and workers' compensation	1,495	700
– Preparation of annual financial report	2,000	1,200
– Taxation services	800	800
	<u>\$13,815</u>	<u>\$10,700</u>
<b>6. CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	230,406	133,037
Short term bank deposits	185,938	209,467
	<u>\$416,344</u>	<u>\$342,504</u>
<b>7. TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade receivables	132,893	54,612
Provision for impairment of receivables	(3,859)	(3,859)
	<u>\$129,034</u>	<u>\$50,753</u>
<b>8. INVENTORIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
At Cost		
Merchandise held for resale	<u>\$31,842</u>	<u>\$37,665</u>
<b>9. OTHER ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Conference prepayments	29,562	–
Prepayments	42,862	17,721
	<u>\$72,424</u>	<u>\$17,721</u>

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>10. TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Conference prepayments	–	\$11,448
<b>11. FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Unlisted investments at fair value	\$15,296	\$13,234
<b>12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Office premises – at deemed cost (Note 12b)	100,000	100,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(20,000)	(17,500)
	<u>80,000</u>	<u>82,500</u>
Plant & equipment – at cost	97,821	97,943
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(87,057)	(82,322)
	<u>10,764</u>	<u>15,621</u>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>\$98,121</b>	<b>\$110,502</b>

#### (a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	2007 Office Premises	2007 Plant Equipment	2007 TOTAL
Balance at beginning of year	82,500	15,621	98,121
Additions	–	1,853	1,853
Disposals/write-offs	–	–	–
Depreciation expense	(2,500)	(6,710)	(9,210)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$10,764</b>	<b>\$90,764</b>

#### (b) Office Premises Valuation

A directors' valuation of office premises was undertaken as at 2nd May 2007. The valuation was based on the market value of similar office premises within the area. The valuation has been disclosed for information purposes only. Office premises continue to be recognised in the financial report at deemed cost. The directors' valuation as at 2nd May 2007 was \$175,000 GST inclusive.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
<b>13. TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<i>Unsecured Liabilities:</i>		
Trade payables	39,271	39,164
Sundry payables & accrued expenses	28,569	23,630
Employee benefits	36,559	22,574
	<u>\$104,399</u>	<u>\$85,368</u>
<b>14. PROVISIONS</b>		
	<b>LONG-TERM</b>	
	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	
Opening balance at 1st July 2006	30,177	16,172
Additional provisions raised during the year	1,305	14,005
Amounts used	–	–
Balance at 30th June 2007	<u>\$31,482</u>	<u>\$30,177</u>
<b>Analysis of total provisions:</b>		
Current	26,482	27,231
Non-current	5,000	2,946
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<u>\$31,482</u>	<u>\$30,177</u>
<b>15. RETAINED EARNINGS</b>		
Retained profit at the beginning of the year	283,396	254,112
Net profit/(deficit) attributable to members	56,284	29,284
<b>Retained profit at the end of the financial year</b>	<u>\$339,680</u>	<u>\$283,396</u>
<b>16. LEASE COMMITMENTS</b>		
<i>Operating lease commitments</i>		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
– not later than 12 months	1,009	4,036
– between 12 months and 5 years	–	1,009
– greater than 5 years	–	–
	<u>\$1,009</u>	<u>\$5,045</u>

#### *General description of leasing arrangements:*

The Company has a non-cancellable operating lease arrangement in respect of a photocopier in the Perth branch which expires November 2007.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

#### 17. COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Local Government House  
Level 1, 25 Evelyn Street  
Newstead Brisbane QLD 4006

#### *Members' guarantee*

The company is limited by guarantee. Every member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while a member or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for payments of the debts and liabilities of the company and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for adjustment of the rights of contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding \$2.10.

#### 18. SEGMENT REPORTING

The company operates predominately in one business where it promotes and encourages the interest and practice of environmental health and operates with branches in each capital city of Australia.

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
<b>19. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</b>		
Total compensation to directors	10,000	-
<b>20. CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<i>(a) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit after income tax</i>		
Profit after income tax	56,284	29,284
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- Depreciation/asset write-offs	9,210	17,688
- Diminution of investments	-	(35)
- Distributions reinvested	-	-
- Bad debts	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- Trade & other receivables current	(78,281)	16,430
- Inventories	5,823	(4,831)
- Other current assets	(54,703)	6,520
- Trade & other receivables non-current	11,448	(8,747)
- Financial assets	(2,120)	(413)
- Payables	19,031	(18,298)
- Long-term provisions	1,305	14,005
- Unearned revenue	107,696	47,195
	<b>\$75,693</b>	<b>\$98,798</b>

#### *(b) Credit standby arrangements & loan facilities*

The company has credit card facilities of \$5,000. This may be terminated at any time at the option of the provider. At 30th June 2007, none of this facility was used. Interest rates are variable.



# Statement of Financial Position

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$

#### 21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

##### (a) Financial risk management

The company's financial assets consist of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.

##### (b) Interest rate risk

The company's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on the financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE			
	2007	2006		
	%	%		
<i>Financial assets:</i>				
– Variable rate cash deposits	4.87	4.74	303,652	326,877
– Fixed rate deposits maturing within one year	3.24	1.14	111,491	14,427
– Trade & other receivables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	129,034	50,753
– Other financial assets – unit trust (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	14,234	12,114
<i>Total financial assets:</i>			<u>\$558,411</u>	<u>\$404,171</u>
<i>Financial liabilities:</i>				
– Trade & other payables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	104,399	85,368
<i>Total financial liabilities</i>			<u>\$104,399</u>	<u>\$85,368</u>

##### (c) Net fair values

The net fair value of financial assets and liabilities shown in the statement of financial position and the notes thereto have been valued at market value as at balance date.



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## *Innovative Leaders* *in Food Safety Management & Training*

FSMS specialises in:

- Food safety risk assessment
- Evaluating food safety and hygiene procedures
- Food safety programs & HACCP plans
- Preparing food businesses for third party audits
- Developing value-added food safety SOP's & GMP's
- Food safety training for food handlers, supervisors & management
- Prosecution & food surveillance training for EHO's
- Local government food & public health inspection services
- Litigation support & expert witness testimony for the food industry
- Reviewing regulatory requirements
- Assessment of development applications for Principal Certifying Authorities

**Food Safety Management Solutions** is committed to providing its clients with professional and achievable solutions to their everyday challenges in the processing, preparation and sale of safe food. Call us to speak at your next industry conference, to assist with professional development training of your staff, or to develop or review your food safety program. Whatever your food safety or training needs, you can be confident that FSMS will deliver a professional, 'value for money' service.

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# Awards and Membership Advancements

## Australian Institute of Environmental Health

### **New South Wales/ACT Branch Award**

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2006 Student Award  
*Colin Cuell – OTEN -TAFE NSW*

### **Queensland Branch Excellence Awards**

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Environmental Health Professional of the Year  
*Sponsored by: Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd*  
*Grant Steen*

Young Environmental Health Professional of the Year  
*Sponsored by: AIEH*  
*Amanda Hutchings*  
*Highly Commended: Luke Forster & Nicole Hutchings*

Environmental Health Management Excellence Award  
*Sponsored by: Visy Recycling*  
*Mark Myerson*

Environment & Waste Management Excellence Award  
*Sponsored by: Connell Wagner Pty Ltd*  
*Joint Winners: Ian Kuhl & John Dearlove*

Food Safety Excellence Award  
*Sponsored by: Woolworths*  
*Kerry Bell*  
*Highly Commended: Greg Blumke*

Disaster Management Excellence Award  
*Sponsored by: Department of Emergency Services*  
*John Piispanen*

### **Queensland Branch Student Awards**

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AIEH Prize – Griffith University  
*Luisa Gurrieri*

AIEH Prize – Queensland University of Technology  
*Carolyn Topping*

### **Queensland Branch Advancements**

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Membership advancement to Fellow  
*Grant Steen*  
*Paddy Flynn*  
*Russell Manley*  
*Kerry Bell*  
*Bob Lawson*

Admitted to Hon Fellow Status  
*Professor Cordia Chu*

### **Tasmania Branch Awards**

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2006 Gold Medal Award for the Most Outstanding Student  
*Alison Duniam*

### **South Australian Branch Awards**

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Department of Health Excellence in Leadership Award  
*City of Charles Sturt*

Norman Waterhouse Excellence in Environmental Health Management Award  
*City of Mitcham*

Local Government Association of South Australia Award for Outstanding Individual Environmental Health Professional of the Year  
*Nicole Moore*

Royal Society of Health prize for student attaining highest grade in ENVH3005, 'Integrating Environmental Health Research & Project Management' shared by;  
*Carolyn Maciunas*  
*Joshua Hopkins*  
*Melissa Tscharke*  
*Madeleine Carter*

### **Victorian Branch Awards**

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TGO Jordan Memorial Award  
*Andrew Lloyd*

Keith W Magee Award  
*Judith Harris*

Leadership and Strategic Planning  
*Lisa Mizon*

Certificate of Appreciation  
*Ross Cairns/ Sally-Ann Atkinson*

### **Western Australian / NT Branch Awards**

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Harold Salter Award for 2006  
*Amy Hughes*  
*Carlie Eames*

Gold Medal Award for 2006  
*Corey King*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## New South Wales/ACT Branch

The NSW/ACT Branch has had a busy year including hosting the National Conference in Sydney in November 2006 that proved to be another fantastic professional development opportunity, covering a range of topical environmental health issues. The variety of presentations at the conference really demonstrated the broad scope of issues that the modern environmental health officer needs to be equipped to deal with.

A new Branch Council was elected in 2007 after a period in which insufficient nominations were received to formally constitute a Branch Council. As you can see from the list below, there is an interesting blend of old and new faces which will hopefully see the Branch continue to bloom in the coming years. This year also saw the appointment of Paul Reynolds as the NSW/ACT Branch Development Officer commencing in November 2006 for a twelve-month period. The Branch Development Officer role was implemented by the National Board in response to the identified need to increase professional development opportunities and the profile of the Branch. Paul has been busy delivering training programs in the area of evidence collection, complaint investigation, environmental assessment of developments and the exceptional peak performance workshop that focused on techniques for maintaining high levels of personal and professional productivity in the modern work environment.

The AIEH has continued to represent the interests of environmental health professionals on a range of committees with State agencies. One of the most significant committees has been the Food Regulatory Liaison group, which has overseen the development and implementation of the Food Regulation Blueprint in conjunction with the NSW Food Authority. This Blueprint will shepherd in a new era of the regulation of food safety standards in NSW and the Institute is more than happy with the identification of local government as a key player in safeguarding the health of the community. The process of introduction of this partnership will require some intensive training and assistance to be provided for all environmental health professionals, and the AIEH is working hard to position itself to play a major role in the delivery of this service.

### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS**

#### **Communicable Diseases Special Interest Group**

The Communicable Diseases Special Interest Group (SIG) met on 21 June 2007 primarily to progress the proposed 2 day Public Health School planned for the 12 & 13 November 2007. An exciting draft program was put together and an inspection of venues was called with the most suitable venue being the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre.

The seminar rooms overlook the main Olympic competition pool and access is provided to the downstairs unique viewing windows to the underwater action (including the diving pool). An operating cooling tower nearby will complement the speaker in the Legionella session of the program.

A further meeting has been called for 24 August 2007 and members have been invited to attend to fine tune speakers and details for the 2 day program. The proposed program will cover a range of Public Health Issues, including Legionella, Swimming Pools, Skin Penetration, and other Regulatory Matters, and numbers will be capped to ensure the best outcome for participants.

#### **Healthy Setting Special Interest Group**

The Healthy Setting Special Interest Group (SIG) was established in May 2007. The focus of the SIG in 2007 is to promote information sharing between Environmental Health Officers and other professionals in the area of Health Impact Assessment. This will be achieved through teleconferences and sharing of resources.

A special thanks needs to go to our Executive Officer Margaret Hind for her tireless efforts in the office over the year and I'm sure that all members who have had any contact with Margaret would agree that she is committed to providing the best service for our members. A special thank you on behalf of all members is owed to Fleur Cousins who contributed her expertise in leading the National Conference Committee in conjunction with our own Bernadette MacKinnon to deliver an exceptional result for all. Special thanks also go to those members of the Management Team who oversaw the affairs of the Branch prior to the Branch Council being elected in February 2007.

#### **NSW/ACT MANAGEMENT TEAM ( to February 1, 2007)**

Graham Pares	– Convenor	– Professional Development SIG
Denis McKeon	– Convenor	– Food Safety SIG
Graham Burgess	– Convenor	– Emergency Management SIG
Jeff Lee	– Convenor	– Noise Working Party
Neil Smith	– Chairperson	– Riverina Group
Ian Goldthorpe		
Paul Reynolds		
Waikay Lau		

# Branch Presidents' Reports

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## NSW/ACT Branch (continued)

### **NSW/ACT BRANCH COUNCIL (Since February 1, 2007)**

- Graham Pares – Branch President and Environment Management SIG Convenor
- Shannon McKiernan – Vice President
- Rebecca Frecklington – Vice President and Professional Development SIG Convenor (Resigned)
- Verity Beadle – Branch Councillor and Food Safety SIG Convenor
- Ian Goldthorpe – Branch Councillor and Communicable Diseases SIG Convenor
- Kylie D'Alton – Branch Councillor and Healthy Setting SIG Convenor
- Graham Burgess – Branch Councillor

### **Graham Pares FAIEH**

*NSW/ACT Branch President*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Queensland Branch

Since taking over the role of President, AIEH (Qld Branch) in January last year, life has certainly been interesting. Despite some earlier concerns about the financial position of the AIEH (Nationally), our Branch has continued to perform strongly and managed to significantly exceed its required objectives at a National level. This could not have been achieved without the tremendous support of my Branch Council, our Executive Officer Jo Rolls and our strong member base. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution to the AIEH that Mr Bruce Morton made during his time as National President. Bruce continues to support the AIEH in his capacity as a Queensland Branch Councillor and Treasurer. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr Jim Smith, our new National President, and I look forward to working with him, and the National Board, to progress a range of initiatives that will position the AIEH as the peak body for environmental health in Australia.

Branch Council meets regularly through a combination of teleconferences and a number of face to face meetings each year. Our Branch Councillors come from a variety of locations throughout Queensland and work for local governments, Queensland Health, a University, private enterprise and a statutory Food Authority. One Branch Councillor has recently joined the lofty ranks of Chief Executive Officer of a remote local government.

One of the major highlights this year was the opportunity to attend and participate in the National Local Government Environmental Health Workforce Summit which was held in Brisbane in early July. This Forum highlighted a number of issues that are very dear to my heart. Environmental Health in Australia, as a science and a profession, has suffered from a lack of profile that, in my opinion, has contributed to poor student uptake into environmental health courses and the attraction/retention of qualified officers. As a result of this Workforce Summit, the AIEH now has an opportunity to progress a range of strategies that will better place the AIEH as the peak body for environmental health in Australia and lift the profile of environmental health at all levels.

Another highlight for the year was the successful delivery of the Annual Branch Conference which was held in Mackay in October 2006. This Conference was very well attended and enabled delegates to experience some of the benefits of living and working in tropical north Queensland. Branch Council is committed to providing a range of professional development and networking opportunities for members. This year, a workshop is being conducted in conjunction with our annual conference in Bundaberg and members will be invited to attend free of any cost. For the third year running, the 'Environmental Health Excellence Awards' were presented during the opening session of the Annual Branch Conference in Mackay.

Queensland Branch Council is heavily involved in the planning for the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) Conference to be held in Brisbane in May 2008. This event will also substitute for both the Queensland Annual Branch Council Conference and the National Conference.

### Conferences and Training

- Delivery of the popular Disaster Management for Public Health course 2006
- Successful delivery of the Annual Branch Conference in Mackay, October 2006
- Planning for the Disaster Management for Public Health course which is to be held in Cairns in late August 2007
- Planning for the Annual Branch Conference in Bundaberg, October 2007
- Delivery of Noise Management Workshops and the Contemporary Food Safety Training Course
- Planning for the IFEH Conference in Brisbane, May 2008

### Special Interest Group Reports

Queensland is currently reviewing its Special Interest Groups (SIG) in an attempt to create better synergy with the National SIGs. SIG convenors continue to provide valuable input into legislation development and review as well as monitoring emerging issues.

### Regional Group Reports

One of the significant strengths of the AIEH in Queensland is the work undertaken by the four regional groups. Each group meets on a regular basis and ensures that all members have an opportunity to network, share experiences and undertake professional development at their local level. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all regional group convenors and secretaries for the valuable contribution they continue to make to the AIEH.

### Professional Tools/ Products and Services

While the Queensland Branch Council continues to support the marketing and supply of a range of professional tools, products and services, I believe it is time for a National review of the products and tools to ensure that they are still attractive and useful to members. This will need to be linked into ongoing debate over rebranding/relaunching.

**Virgil Kelk** FAIEH

*Queensland Branch President*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## South Australian Branch

2007 has been an active and motivating year for South Australian members and a time of considerable change for Branch Council. The following achievements highlight the direction and priorities of the branch in 2007.

### Emergency Management Planning

Further funding was obtained from the Local Government Association to provide professional training on the preparation of Environmental Health Emergency Management plans. The seminar provided information that was not included in the November and February Emergency Management training courses. The course was also recorded with the aim of providing a training DVD which will be offered to participants and available for sale to AIEH members.

### Public & Environmental Health Act Review

A sub-group of Branch Council is working with Danny Broderick, Senior Policy Officer with the SA Department of Health on the review of the Public & Environmental Health Act. This group will assist with the dissemination of information in preparation of formal consultation sessions for members planned in the second half of 2007. Of particular interest to members will be an appropriate set of tools to administer the Act, documented principles and objectives, clarifying definitions of risk to health and insanitary condition, role of Local Government, relationship with Environment Protection legislation and the maintenance of proper standards and accreditation of Authorised officers appointed under the Act. Additional areas for consideration include emergency management, the role and composition of the Public & Environmental Health Council, strategic planning for public health and the concept of a graded risk to health (material risk, serious risk and public health concern/nuisance).

### Response to the Article 'Shame File – Dirty Restaurants Risk Being Named'

The SA Branch responded to the 'Advertisers', 'name and shame' report 12 June 2007 with a media release with the following policy position. The proposal to 'name and shame' food businesses will be an ineffective measure in enhancing the safety of the food supply in South Australia. The SA Branch believes that this proposal should be considered amongst a range of legislative or policy changes including;

- mandatory food safety training for food business proprietors,
- requirements for food businesses to register with their local health authority,
- ensuring the continuation of routine unannounced food premises inspections by local Environmental Health Officers,
- review of penalties available to local government contemplating prosecution of non-compliant food businesses,
- increased levels of resourcing for local government public and environmental health authorities.

### Conference/s, Training and Education

An exciting training and development program based on members' survey responses has been prepared for 2007 and beyond. Our first offer 'Strategic Investigation Techniques & Evidence Gathering for Prosecutions under the P&EH Act' includes expert advice on evidence collection teamed with a case review of a recent P&EH Act prosecution.

The 29th South Australian Branch Conference was an exceptional success. Hosted by the Southern Regional Group of EHOs the program was diverse, enlightening and truly motivational. The conference theme, 'A new handle on health' revisited John Snow's perseverance in having the pump handle removed from the Broad Street water pump to prevent the spread of cholera in 1850's England. This theme was used to encourage delegates to think outside of the traditional roles of enforcement based Environmental Health and to think more about the benefits of health promotion, prevention of illness, emergency management and planning for public and environmental health.

### Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were active in the topics of Food Safety, Disease Control, Emergency Management, Waste Control and Environment. The SIGs provide Environmental Health Practitioners with a forum for discussion, advice and sharing to benefit professional practice. SIGs also play an integral advocacy role forming part of our professions voice in response to proposed legislation, regulation and policy making.

Special accomplishments of the SIGs during 2007 included:

- Survey of members and Local Government Chief Executive Officers on the administration of the Environment Protection Act.
- Input into the training of Food Safety Auditors and development of audit policy and guidelines for the implementation of Food Safety Plans to vulnerable populations.
- Participation in the review of the MOU under the Food Act 2001 and actioning matters arising from the Department of Health Planning day particularly consistency, support and resources for food regulation throughout councils.
- Environmental Health Emergency Management planning seminar for Environmental Health Practitioners in South Australia.
- Tackling pandemic influenza and the role of Environmental Health Practitioners.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## South Australian Branch (continued)

Branch Council in conjunction with our Special Interest Groups provided submissions to the following:

- enHealth on the role of Para-professionals to address Environmental Health workforce shortages.
- Brethwaite review, an independent public review into Australia's food regulatory system in order to improve the competitiveness of the Australian food industry.
- Housing Improvement (Standards) Regulations consultation on the Housing Assessment Measures.
- Draft Wastewater Regulations and Onsite Wastewater Treatment System codes.
- LGA's draft Emergency Management policy.

### **Professional Tools/Products/Services**

Three editions of South Australia Food Handler Update (SAFHU) were published during the year. This professional and important publication for the food industry was received by over 9000 food businesses via 38 subscribing Councils. SAFHU provides food businesses with up to date information on food safety and legislative change and Local Government with a regular point of contact with businesses beyond routine inspection.

Australia Food Safety Assessment (AFSA) continues to provide guidance to Environmental Health Practitioners and Food Businesses alike on the consistent implementation of the Food Safety Standards. Our leading professional tool is regularly reviewed and updated to address member feedback, amendments to the Food Act and Food Safety Standards.

The Disease Control SIG has developed inspection tools for Cooling Towers, Public Pools, Hairdressing & Skin Penetration premises. The checklists and user guidelines utilise the experience of SIG members, legal opinion and the outcome of P&EH Act appeals in addressing these often complex areas of inspection and raise our professional profile by providing consistency to our approach.

In spite of our good intentions arrangements for the re-launch of our South Australian publication 'Environmental Health News' were delayed. In the interim a one off edition of State Slate brought members up to date on the activities of the South Australian Branch and its members. A new publisher and revitalised editorial team are seeking articles for the relaunch of SA's flagship publication in the latter half of 2007.

It is a privilege to be part of the AIEH during this time of rapid change, profile raising and policy development. I sincerely thank the dedication and commitment of Branch Council, our Special Interest Groups, Sub Groups and Members for your commitment to the progression of Public and Environmental Health in South Australia.

**Ian Hawkins MAIEH**

*South Australian Branch President*



# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Tasmanian Branch

I am pleased to report that a small wave of optimism finally appears to be sweeping through the EH profession in Tasmania. This has come about, I believe, principally through the efforts of the hard working Branch Council members who have reaffirmed their credibility and integrity by addressing a range of key workforce issues within the state. The AIEH and the profession will continue to benefit greatly whilst members of their calibre continue to volunteer to work on Branch Council.

Once again I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge them for their efforts during the year:

Branch Senior Vice President	Ron Fry
Branch Vice President	Michael Stretton
Branch Councillor	Eric Johnson
Branch Councillor	Abyilene Dobson
Branch Councillor	Doug Doherty
Branch Councillor	John Colavecchio
Student Representative	Megan Whalley

John Colavecchio unfortunately relocated to Queensland during the year. However James Doherty was subsequently appointed in John's place. Welcome aboard for the ride of your professional life, James!

Branch Council was very active once again in providing an extensive range of services and activities for all EHOs and EH students in Tasmania. There were 3 Branch newsletters produced as well as a Workforce/Degree Bulletin and these informative documents certainly kept everybody informed about interesting and key local and national issues.

Branch Council conducted 5 formal meetings during the year and ensured that the AIEH was well represented at the National Careers & Employment Expo and the University of Tasmania Careers Expo that were both held in Hobart. Support was also given to the Department Health & Human Services (DHHS) for organising a 5 day Food Safety Auditors Course for interested EHOs and allied health industries.

The focus still remained, however, on progressing the development of a bachelor degree of environmental health by the University of Tasmania. As in the previous year, a few locals with vested interests in maintaining the TAFE Advanced Diploma of Environmental Health still persisted in trying to undermine efforts to improve the standard of training and qualification for health professionals in Tasmania. It was felt necessary to raise and discuss this absurd situation with the Tasmanian Health Minister and an extremely fruitful and beneficial meeting ensued. As stated earlier though, the credibility and integrity of Branch Council members was upheld and, indeed, has been praised by many local members of the profession. It is anticipated that the new degree will receive final University approval by the end of July 2007.

And of course the students weren't forgotten about either! A social BBQ was arranged for current students and new graduates during the summer at a local popular and picturesque Hobart park. There was an impressive turnout of students and the day included a surprise visit by the Director of Public Health who popped in for a chat, a burnt snag and a cold beer! The AIEH also sponsored the annual TAFE award for the most outstanding student completing the Advanced Diploma course. I was extremely proud to make the public presentation of certificate and book voucher prize to Alison Duniam.

The DHHS organised a series of regional pandemic planning workshops (3) around the state and the AIEH was invited to participate by providing a speaker on behalf of Local Government. The workshop target groups were principally regional SES and allied emergency management agencies, health care and community recovery agencies, local GPs, NGOs and Local Government representatives. Local Government was encouraged to utilise the skills and knowledge of EHOs in emergency management planning, including pandemic planning.

### Conferences and Training

It was quite a busy year organising and conducting events and activities for members and other EH practitioners.

Two food micro workshops were organised that focussed on microbial swabbing techniques and results interpretation were conducted at the Royal Hobart and Launceston General hospitals.

The branch conference was held at Strahan on the West Coast and this annual event continues to grow in stature and reputation as the most popular EH event of the year. Annual conferences were traditionally held during the month of August however it was decided to hold this conference in October in the hope of catching some decent weather on the West Coast. This ploy almost worked (bad weather on Day 2!) however it has since been agreed that October will now be the month for the annual conference.

Statewide seminars were held at Campbell Town in December and May and both were exceptionally well attended by practising EHOs and students from across the state. A total of 12 guest speakers participated in these seminars and the topics that were covered ranged across the entire spectrum of environmental management and public and environmental health issues. It really was a smorgasbord of choices for the EHOs and EH students.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

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## Tasmanian Branch (continued)

There were 2 successful field trips conducted and invitations to attend were also extended to members of environmental and wastewater organisations. The first trip was to the Coal River recycled water scheme, located just outside Hobart, and the second was to the Henty gold mine on the West Coast. These were good examples of the profession interacting with allied health and environmental professionals at a common technical and social level.

The venue and date for the 2009 AIEH National Conference to be held in Tasmania has been finalised. The venue is the Wrest Point Hotel Casino located on the waterfront in Sandy Bay, Hobart. The date of the conference is scheduled for 11-13 November 2009.

Yet another exciting and challenging year lies ahead for the AIEH and the profession both nationally and locally. Many important workforce issues are yet to be effectively addressed and resolved. Branch Council is determined to build on the successes achieved during the past twelve months and shall continue to strive to improve both the workplace and workforce for Environmental Health Officers.

**Mark Dwyer MAIEH**

*Tasmanian Branch President*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch

AIEH Victorian Branch commenced the financial year with several new Branch Councillors assisting the direction of the branch. The Branch Council now has a good mix of rural and urban EHO professionals, a good cross section of experience in the profession and mix of mature and younger members.

### **Municipal Association of Victoria**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has greatly assisted the AIEH. MAV's Paula Giles and Rosemary Hancock have gone to great lengths to better understand the issues facing our profession at the moment and have advocated strongly on behalf of Environmental Health Officers in local government.

### **Department of Human Services**

There has been considerable liaison with the Department of Human Services (DHS), mainly on their proposed authorised (Food Act) officer course. It has taken a lot of time to highlight the concerns of our profession to DHS. Specifically we have questioned the DHS strategic directions in pursuing this work-force fix, where the proposed graduate is likely to fit in the local government structure and who would employ.

### **Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission**

Treasurer of Victoria, Mr John Brumby, called for an investigation into the burden of food regulation in Victoria. This in turn threw open agendas for various comments to be submitted back to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) on potential improvements within the food regulatory system. It must be highlighted that VCEC offered AIEH and local government a terrific hearing right throughout this inquiry. Many of AIEH's thoughts directly transpired into the draft VCEC report.

### **AIEH National**

Liaison with AIEH board and national president ensured that Victoria's strategic direction stayed on track. It was most helpful to be guided by the over-arching purpose and position of Environmental Health in Australia whilst negotiating for Victorian agendas such as the DHS authorised officer project. I look forward to the National environmental health positions on particular aspects of our profession being strengthened over the next 12 months.

### **Conferences and Sponsors**

During the financial year a successful conference was held in metro Melbourne. The conference really raised the bar in terms of speaker program and attendance by EHOs. Branch Council's Adam Lee is taking the lead for 2007 with the planning of a conference in Geelong which is already shaping up to be a must attend for EHOs.

As conference organiser in 2006 I felt it was important to continue the relationship built during that year with each sponsor. Over many years AIEH have had much appreciated support from organisations and companies such as:

Department of Human Services  
Agriquality  
Kernow Environmental Services  
The Clean Food Training Company  
CSL  
OMIC  
ALTRO Flooring  
TESTO Instruments

New supporters are now also aligning to our profession and have assisted with funds that ensure the delivery of great conferences and day training sessions for EHOs. I would like to thank these more recent supporters that include Macpherson and Kelly solicitors and Jaymak.

### **Media**

There have been several different major newspaper articles appear over the past twelve months, focused mainly on food safety and the regulatory issues raised by the VCEC. It has been a terrific opportunity to promote the environmental health profession and a good relationship with the AGE newspaper has been established. The AGE is now in regular contact with AIEH to pursue stories.

### **Geoff Fraser MAIEH**

*Victorian Branch President*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch (continued)

Each SIG has carried out substantial work I wish to highlight.

- The Communicable Diseases SIG – ran a very successful swimming pools workshop.
- The Environment SIG received input from several new members and is now in a position to tackle several controversial waste water issues in Victoria.
- The Food SIG continues to kick goals and is constantly a source of reference for DHS. Through the work of Samantha Crowe the SIG has developed good operating policies on complaint investigation across Councils. The day seminar the Food SIG ran at City of Whittlesea was one of the most successful day sessions held by AIEH Victorian Branch.
- The Emergency Management SIG – produced the Emergency Public Health Aide Memoire and held a launch which was successful.
- The Professional Development and Marketing SIG – this SIG mapped much of the strategic direction needed to reach solid positions on issues like the DHS Authorised Officer project. A credit to this SIG is the proposal made to DHS to run a professional EHO legal course. The course was recently tendered by DHS and course providers will be interviewed soon.

I would like to thank each member of each SIG and encourage other members to find out when specific SIG meetings are being held and get involved in the aspects of environmental health that really appeal to them.

### Food Special Interest Group

The Food Special Interest Group (SIG) has been working productively over the past 12 months in meeting the majority of its activities in the 2006-2007 business plan and responding to many unplanned events.

Work has commenced on reviewing the Food Safety Policies (March 2005) that are currently being converted to 'Food Safety Management Guidelines'. It has been identified that additional guidelines are required to be developed and that all guidelines be consolidated into one document. The objectives of the Food Safety Management Guidelines are to provide recommended "best practice" procedures to assist EHPs in employing strategic and efficient practices associated with key aspects of their food safety management responsibilities thus enhancing environmental health standards and the professional standing of AIEH members.

The review of this document will take into account the Auditor General's recommendations on the management of food safety in Victoria and will endeavour to incorporate any relevant findings from the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission's report regarding the Inquiry into Food Regulation in Victoria that is due to be released later this year.

In 2006, the Food SIG prioritised reviewing 'Investigation into Food Complaints' and 'Temporary Food Premises' policies. This has led to a draft 'Food Complaint Guideline (10)' being circulated amongst AIEH members and is now ready to be adopted by Branch Council.

In reviewing the current policy in relation to temporary food premises, advice was sought from DHS in relation to the challenges the profession faces in managing temporary food premises within the current legislation. As a result, the management of temporary food premises has now been taken up by DHS and is now an agenda item on the DHS funded DHS/MAV Food Safety Coordination Project of which the AIEH is a participant.

The Food SIG is also in the process of reviewing Appendix D of the AIEH Food Safety Assessment Standard of Practice for local government EHPs, that was adopted by the Victorian Branch Council in 2001.

As part of the 2006/07 Business Plan the SIG achieved its goal of contributing to the professional development of the AIEH's members via the seminar 'Keeping Our Finger on the Pulse'.

The seminar was hosted by the City of Whittlesea in March 2007 and was viewed as a success producing an unprecedented outcome from the North West Regional Group requesting the SIG develop a guideline for the management of food recalls.

The Food SIG has taken this request on board and has incorporated it into the 2007/08 Business Plan. As with all of the Food Safety Management Guidelines being created or reviewed, the Food SIG encourages members' involvement throughout this process and welcomes comments.

In addition to the business plan, the Food SIG has continued to provide input and representation on a range of state committees, working groups and reviews including involvement in the Food Safety Council, contributing to the AIEH national response of the Bethwaite Review, the DHS Food Act Authorised Officer project, participated in the DHS workshops to develop the Food Safety Unit planning in response to the VCEC review and contributing to the review of the Food Safety Supervisors information sheet produced by DHS.

The Food SIG prepared a response to the Victorian Commission and Efficiency Commission's Inquiry which provided the profession with an opportunity to raise awareness of the current legislative restrictions and operating challenges EHPs face on a daily basis.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch (continued)

I would like to thank all of the Food SIG members for their commitment and contribution they have made throughout the year and the members who have participated through providing valuable feedback and suggestions in shaping our future.

**Leanne Johnson MAIEH**

*Food SIG Convenor*

### **Emergency Management Special Interest Group**

The Emergency Management Special Interest Group (EMSIG), has had a number of focuses in the last financial year. These included:

- Development and Facilitation of the 2007 Emergency Management Course.
- Participation in interagency Emergency Management Committees.
- Review and Launch of the Public Health Aide Memoire.
- Development and Presentation of Education Material for Environmental Health Students at Swinburne University.

### **2007 Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals**

The EMSIG, has continued its focus on the development and facilitation of the nationally accredited Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals. This course which has been conducted since 1985 and accredited since 1995, continues to provide vital training in the public health issues of an emergency in the four key areas of emergency management, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The 2007 course to be held at Emergency Management Australia Institute Mt Macedon from August 5th to August 10th has a full compliment of thirty participants embracing, Environmental Health Officers (including representatives from interstate), personnel from the Department of Human Services (DHS) and personnel from the Defence Department (RAAF and Army).

To maintain the accreditation status and ensure topics are current and of interest, the EMSIG reviewed the course program after having discussions with Emergency Management Australia staff in late 2006.

The EMSIG, would like to thank Kernow Consultancy (Terry Old), and especially the Department of Human Services "DHS" for their financial support of the EMSIG, in the running of the course.

### **Emergency Management Committees**

The EMSIG represents the AIEH through its extensive network and through its participation in a number of Emergency Management Committees. Current committees and SIG members representing the EMSIG are:

Daniella Failla	State Catering Sub-Committee and DHS Pandemic Influenza Working Group
Ross Cairns	Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group "MEMEG"
Duncan Moore	Medical Displan (now known as SHERP) and DHS Pandemic Influenza Working Group

Duncan has represented the AIEH on the Medical Displan Committee for over ten years, which has now ceased. This Committee has now been replaced with the State Health Emergency Response Planning Committee, which is an all embracing Committee of DHS responsible for medical and public health response in an emergency. Duncan is no longer a member of this Committee.

### **Emergency Public Health Aide Memoire**

In June 2007, the EMSIG will launch its updated booklet, first published in 1995. This update would not have been possible if it was not for Kirsten Jenkins (former Convenor now in Laos), successful submissions to the Australian Government Attorney-General Department Emergency Management Australia, Local Grants Scheme. The development of this booklet has taken over six months to complete, with SIG members spending many hours including liaison with international aid organisations such as the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response "SCHR" in Switzerland.

### **Swinburne University**

The EMSIG, has continued to be part of the training sector of the Swinburne University course for Environmental Health Officers. At the request of Louise Dunn Course Co-ordinator, a number of SIG members have presented topics on emergency management to the students.

This year, the EMSIG will give an overview of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery to first year students. Later in the year, the EMSIG will liaise with Louise in developing their presentation for second year students, which will become an assessed item of their course. This recognition by Swinburne University to utilise the EMSIG in their course structure is not only an achievement for the EMSIG, it is also greatly appreciated.

### **Other Items**

In addition to the above achievements, the EMSIG has seen some professional recognition of some of its members as follows:

- Andrea Spiteri has taken up a position of Manager Emergency Management DHS Southern Metropolitan Region.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch (continued)

- Kirsten Jenkins is working in Laos with an international aid agency, running programs to improve the health status of the community.
- Seona Liew, has been appointed Regional EHO for the Eastern Metropolitan Region and is currently Acting Manager. No doubt her role on the EMSIG, and the recognition which she is held in for her skills in this area and its implication of emergency management in her role assisted.

A number of EMSIG members have temporarily left the SIG. Kirsten to Laos, Sally-Ann Atkinson, Heather O'Donnell and Lyndal Peterson to have babies. However, the SIG has been fortunate to obtain Christelle Ray who has done voluntary work in Cambodia and Fiji. Another plus for the EMSIG has been the interest from a relative new member of the Institute Michelle Barrett, who although not having yet done the course (will be attending this year), has been participating in the SIG meetings with the intent to join the SIG.

Because of the temporary absence of Kirsten from the SIG course this year, the AIEH is putting Houa Tia a member of the EMSIG, through the Certificate 1V Workplace Assessment course. Houa is currently attending TAFE every Saturday, to achieve her qualification for this year's course.

Financially, the EMSIG in particular the Emergency Management Course continues to be cost effective in its operation and will continue to do so, subject to adequate numbers of participants, maintenance of the accreditation status, support of speakers and the willingness of members to become active members of the EMSIG. To become a member of the EMSIG, a member must be a financial member of the Institute and have done the course.

In closing, may I extend my sincere appreciation to Branch Council for their support of the EMSIG and the course, and especially the work and dedication of those EMSIG members who undertake roles additional to normal attendance at SIG meetings.

### **Duncan Moore LFAIEH**

*Acting EMSIG Convenor*

### **Communicable Diseases and Immunisation Special Interest Group**

This has been my 2nd year as convenor of the group which has proved to be both a positive and challenging experience. Though I have decided to step down as convenor I will continue to take an active role as a member of the group. The year started with focussing on work that had previously commenced, being the 2nd year of our two year Business Plan cycle

Some of the key achievements of the Special Interest Group (SIG) are as follows:

Representation on various committees and working groups including:-

- Local Government Immunisation Reference Group
- Pandemic Influenza Working Group
- Sun Smart Shade Reference Group
- Return of Unwanted Medicines Board
- Steering committee as part of a research project with the La Trobe University regarding compliance with implementation of Personal Care and Body Art Industries Guidelines.

We reviewed and delivered an updated course during October 06 on monitoring, assessing and testing of public swimming/spa pools. The course was well received with participants providing positive feedback on the content and delivery.

We have contributed as an information and promotional resource through submitting articles to Healthline.

We continued to further develop and refine the Health Act and Caravan Park assessment tools to provide consistent and rigorous environmental health practice to enhance standards. This included consultation and reviewing work that was previously carried out. The following assessment tools, together with policies and supportive material have been developed and will require endorsement by the Branch Council prior to being made available at the conference in November 07:

- Health Act registered premises
  - Hairdressers and Beauty Therapy
  - Skin Penetration (conducting on-site sterilisation)
  - Prescribed Accommodation
- Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings

Some of the key areas the SIG will be pursuing over the next 2 years will include:

- Pandemic Influenza preparedness
- Research projects aimed at developing new control strategies for infectious diseases or at improving existing ones

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch (continued)

- Identification of Health Risks due to exposure of environmental factors (eg, greywater/rainwater tanks etc),
- Other implications resulting from the new Victorian Public Health Act."

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the SIG for their time, effort and energy that they have put in over the past twelve months. I wish to acknowledge their contribution in making our achievements possible and which hopefully enhance our profession, both personally and as a whole.

### **Louis Papageorgiou MAIEH**

*Communicable Diseases and Immunisation SIG Convenor*

#### **Environment Special Interest Group**

The Environment Special Interest Group (SIG) reformed earlier this year after not meeting for some months, and this is first time I have taken on the role of convening this group. Several members moved to take on challenging new positions and are now able to return. There are some new members and all have taken an active interest in forming the direction of the group and the issues for EHOs.

Some of the key achievements of the SIG are as follows:

Improving links with EPA, particularly with the many new staff within the wastewater policy area.

Jointly with EPA, DHS and PIC, organizing a workshop/seminar on wastewater/greywater to be held later in 2007.

The group has given consideration to the types of issues with which the SIG will deal and will use the wider definition of environment management to encompass such things as

- Air – noise, fumes, dust, smoke, odour.
- Soil – contaminated sites, salinity, land stability.
- Water – wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, recreation.
- Waste – litter, municipal waste, toxic waste.

Some of these areas are interconnected e.g. municipal waste can cause odour problems.

It is hoped to produce a CD containing information on a number of topics for EHOs including a powerpoint presentation on control of European Wasps which can be used as a high profile educational tool. Progress is also being made by Environmental Health Officers on odour monitoring and waste management of cattle feedlots resulting from the drought and supermarket dependency on guarantee of supply.

Some of the key areas the SIG will be pursuing over the next 2 years will include:

- Completing a greywater policy
- Identification of Health Risks due to exposure of environmental factors (eg, greywater/rainwater tanks etc),
- Reviewing any legislative changes that affect the groups area of interest and the role of EHOs.

Thank you to all the members of the SIG for the time that they have put in over the past six months. I wish to acknowledge their contribution in making our achievements possible and which hopefully enhance our profession, both personally and as a whole.

### **David Esmore MAIEH**

*Environment SIG Convenor*

## **REGIONAL GROUPS REPORTS**

### **Central Highlands Regional Group**

The Central Highlands Regional Group has met 4 times over the last year with our August meeting in Warracknabeal being combined with the North West Group.

In deference to the spread of members we also met in Stawell, Ballan, and Castlemaine with a good attendance at each meeting

We had guests from the Plumbing Industry Commission, and a Private Food Training Organization who provide valuable information and answered questions which we often have trouble getting answers for.

Domestic Wastewater Plans are occupying members' minds and continue to do so as Councils resist the message that the treatment of wastewater is an important environmental issue that they need to address. This is further complicated by the growing pressure from the community to utilize grey water rather than dispose of it to the soil together with the black water.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Victorian Branch (continued)

The Group is concerned about the loss of the MCC's On line training for Food Handlers and would like the AIEH to take over this course if possible.

The Group Secretary attended the IFEH Conference in Dublin as did a good contingent of Australian EHOs. The fellowship was fantastic and the learning experience made the trip worthwhile. I encourage everyone to attend the next IFEH Conference in Brisbane in 2008.

Louise Gertner, Felicity Edwards, Craig Kelly, Bill Van Driel, Ned Beslagic and John Ward our long time friend at DS&S have all moved on and our best wishes go with them.

Bob Scurry has retired again after filling in for Gillian Tattersall for 14 months while she was globe trotting with her family and Sarah Annells after replacing Felicity at Moorabool has gone on maternity leave to have her second baby.

Sadly we also farewelled Dick Banks who died during the year after retiring many years ago from the Stawell area. Dick was a founding member of the AIEH and a valued mentor and colleague to many EHOs in the west of the State.

Phil Donohoe former EHO at Daylesford and Ballan as well as other Councils across the State also died after an electrical accident and we are all saddened by his passing.

Phil had been working in the Northern Territory for some years and his passion and knowledge will be sorely missed.

We are very pleased to welcome new members who have joined our group as their presence has made our meetings more lively and informative.

One of the very good features of being a member of the Central Highlands Regional Group (and the other groups I guess) is our ability to seek assistance from our colleagues when we have a problem and then share the solutions.

### **Alex Serrurier FAIEH**

*Central Highlands Regional Group Chair*

### **Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Regional Group**

The Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Region experienced another busy year, with attendance and support at quarterly meetings that were held at Kingston, Knox, Stonnington and Maroondah City Councils.

During the course of the year, guest speakers were invited to present to the group on a variety of issues and topics. These presentations included:

- Catriona Penman from Macpherson and Kelley Lawyers, who provided an overview on the recovery of fines associated with unpaid fines from prosecutions;
- Phil Krasnostein from Nubian Water systems provided a presentation on grey water and Nubian's treatment systems; and
- Warren Fryer from Kingston City Council, who shared an informative presentation of his time spent in Pakistan working with the Red Cross.

The quarterly meetings also housed discussions around issues such as food prosecutions, food safety programs, tobacco reforms, food safety supervisors, greywater and the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission report and recommendations.

Members also provided the group with updates from the SIGs and Branch Council. Southern Region REHO Mark D'Agostino and Eastern Region REHO Seona Liew attended and provided updates on information and activities occurring at DHS such as the gastrointestinal information sessions for child care centres.

I would like to thank all members for their thoughtful discussions and valuable contributions to our quarterly meetings. I would also like to further encourage all members to attend regional group meetings as they provide a range of professional development and networking opportunities.

Over the next 12 months we will be rotating the meetings days and locations to ensure that all EHOs have an opportunity to experience the AIEH regional meetings.

### **Tammy Gelley MAIEH**

*Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Group Secretary*

### **Northwest EHO Network**

The Northwest EHO Network had a pleasing year, with good attendance and support at meetings. There has been some productive networking by EHOs as well as an opportunity for EHOs to exchange information and ideas. Quarterly meetings were held at the City of Melbourne, Yarra, Darebin and Whittlesea.



# Branch Presidents' Reports

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## Victorian Branch (continued)

Guest Speakers were invited to make a presentation at each meeting on a selected topic and they included for the year.

- Belinda Rice from the Food Safety Unit of DHS who gave an update of what is happening at DHS and elaborated on some of the projects currently being undertaken.
- Michael Dyt- Senior EHO from the City of Melbourne gave a presentation on his portfolio. Michael manages the CALD portfolio.
- Nathalie Allaz-Barnett a Toxicologist from DHS spoke about the issues relating to the clean up of clandestine laboratory sites and disseminated some information to assist EHOs.
- Stephen Lansdell from EPA discussed issues relating to grey water.
- The meeting at the City of Melbourne also included a tour of Council's new building- Council House 2 which has received a rating of six stars from the Green Building Council of Australia.

A regular update from REHOs has been included at each meeting and updates from EHOs who belong to the various SIGs. Some of the main issues raised by EHOs related to greywater, clean up of clandestine lab sites and food recalls.

Thanks to EHOs for their support and attendance at meetings and we look forward to another busy and successful year.

**Angela Minglis MAIEH**

*Northwest EHO Network Secretary*

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Western Australian / Northern Territory Branch

2006-2007 has been another successful year for the Western Australian and Northern Territory Branch after the sound result in 2005-2006. The continued commitment of members and a very successful Branch Conference have contributed greatly to this year's result. The Branch volunteers including Regional Group Coordinators, Branch Councillors, Committee Members, SIG Conveners and Directors Philip Swain and Joe Zappavigna have all made a contribution to the efficient operation of the Branch. The continued gains being made by the Branch are a credit to all who have assisted over the reporting period, complemented by the tighter financial management instituted by the Board in the preparation of the Branch budget.

The year saw the untimely departure of Branch Executive Officer, Jenny Johns after only a short time with the organisation. The Branch sought the assistance of Margaret Hind, NSW/ACT Branch Executive Officer, to carry out Executive Officer duties, assisted by Jane Clucas part-time in the Branch Office. The absence of a permanent Executive Officer during this period meant that intensive training opportunities, and the associated revenue did not occur in the second and third quarter of the financial year, however our experienced volunteers and Branch Councillors ran short 'Summer School' seminars on pertinent topics to keep up member interest.

In February 2007 Branch Executive Officer Jackie Breasley stepped into the role and is bringing a new approach to member services and I look forward to working with her in the coming year. Another major development for the Branch has been the change in the office accommodation requirements over recent years, with an overall reduction in staff, and the greater use of teleconferencing and email means the need to use the Victoria Park office for face-to-face meetings is not as great as in the past. Investigations underway since 2006 indicate a more efficient use of the office is to rent the space out, and relocate the AIEH's operations to a smaller part time facility. Co-location within an office complex occupied by other professional associations will commence next financial year. The Victoria Park office will be rented out and remains a major asset of the AIEH, and a tribute to the foresight of the then Western Australian Division members that arranged the acquisition of this piece of real estate.

The need to enhance and build the extensive membership capacity of the organisation is fundamental to our success and I encourage members to get involved in maintaining and improving membership services. You may have the skills that some of us are lacking that can improve your Institute.

The Branch General Meeting in June 2006 saw Branch Council maintain a number of committed individuals and several new Councillors who are warmly welcomed. The Council operated for the period (May 2006 - May 2007) between Branch General Meetings with the following:

Darren Ponton – Branch President  
Philip Swain – Vice President  
Joseph Zappavigna – Vice President  
Toni Hannelly – Branch Councillor  
Vic Andrich – Branch Councillor  
Colin Dent – Branch Councillor  
Ross Wells – Branch Councillor  
Peter Stevens – Branch Councillor  
Tony Morley – Branch Councillor  
Belinda Lang – Branch Councillor

Branch Council continued the appointment of two (2) new student representatives (Non Voting) to the Branch Council and Justin Strange and Renee Houston were elected by the student body at Curtin University of Technology to those positions. We are keen to see the continued involvement and increased liaison that the student representatives bring to the Branch Council.

At the May 2007 Branch General Meeting, Branch Councillors Vic Andrich, Tony Morley and Belinda Lang did not renominate. New Branch Councillors elected unopposed were:

- Nathan Russell,
- Dimity Hargraves,
- Sarah Curnow,
- Felix Neuwieler.

Interestingly now five (5) Branch Councillors are located in regional areas of Western Australia. With eight Branch Councillors, out of a maximum of nine permitted under the By-Laws, the current Branch Council is the largest for many years. With a recruitment of a Branch Councillor from Northern Territory likely next financial year, the WA/NT Branch Council will have a very wide representation.

The AIEH is a national organisation with a company structure and it is important that we retain the benefits of a National focus whilst maintaining the delivery of Member services at the local level. The following is a brief summary of activities undertaken by the WA/NT Branch during the reporting period.

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Western Australian / Northern Territory Branch (continued)

### Conferences and Training

Despite a promising start to the financial year, the loss of our staff member in November meant organising high level training did not occur in the second and third quarter of the year. Nevertheless the year started with Food Safety Auditor Training Course run in partnership with the Australian College of Training. This accredited course was specifically designed to address the existing skills of Environmental Health Officers, and the arrangement with the Australian College of Training was so successful, that other organisations adopted this model.

In November 2006, we held the first Summer School seminar at a function centre in South Perth. The seminar discussed a case study involving Environmental Protection Notices (E.P.N.s) as an enforcement tool used by a metropolitan local government. Speakers included senior staff from the Department of Environment and Appeals Convenors office.

The second Summer School seminar was a full day in December, devoted to Food Safety. In the morning new initiatives in food safety were presented including on-line food safety courses, the I'M ALERT Food Safety CD Rom, innovations in FoodSafe®, food safety by major retailers and the new Food Act. The afternoon was devoted to the Australian Food Safety Assessment (AFSA) training program, and a demonstration by e-AFSA license holder ioGlobal.

In April 2007 in response to requests from members a workshop on Skin Penetration and Safe Sharps disposal was held. Members of the tattoo and body piercing industry gave EHOs hands on advice on 'tricks of the trade' that unscrupulous practitioners may use. Representatives from a medical waste disposal company outlined advances in their industry.

The Branch Council through the guidance of Conference Convener Toni Hannelly conducted the 61st Branch Conference in May 2007, to provide a positive outcome for the AIEH Board and members within WA and NT. This timing, later in the financial year, has become a regular feature of the Branch timetable. The conference was the most successful in many years with excellent feedback regarding most features of the event from members and non-members alike.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Branch Conference, training forums on Health Impact Assessment, were conducted to inform environmental health practitioners of the potential usage of this tool now, and into the future, when it may be adopted within the legislative framework of a new Public Health Act. The pre-conference workshops also included a technical tour of a variety of waste recycling facilities within the Perth metropolitan area. This was a particularly interesting tour as it showed the full range of recycling activities from large scale purpose built industrial sites, to small cottage industries. Another training session demanded by members was a full day First Aid refresher course. The final training workshop conducted before the conference was an emergency management workshop conducted by the regulatory section of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.

The Branch Council will produce a further series of contemporary and informative conference and training forums for the 2007 – 2008 year.

### Special Interest Group Reports

Special Interest Groups currently active for the Branch are Food, Environmental Management, Indigenous Health, Emergency Management, Disease Control/Health Promotion, Waste Management, Planning & Building Control, International and Health Impact Assessment. The future structure and function of Special Interest Groups in the WA/NT Branch was discussed at the Branch Presidents Meeting in November 2006. The tyranny of distance that applies to our Branch means that regular meetings of SIG members as conducted by other Branches, are impossible for members in WA and NT. The SIGs remain largely as email networks. A rationalisation of SIGs to align with the National SIG categories is proposed for 2007-2008.

### Food Special Interest Group

"Consumption of food is one of the most intimate relationships mankind has with the Environment. Food Safety worldwide remains a major public health concern, receives considerable media attention, influences political policy and is at the forefront of public awareness".

The WA/NT Branch Food Special Interest Group (SIG) has, during the year, been involved in the development of positions in respect of the proposed introduction of the model Food Act within this state.

### Membership of the SIG

In 2006-2007 there were approximately 51 members of the Food SIG. The SIG has provided regular liaison between members and comment on various proposals throughout the year.

Achievements for 2006-2007:

- Promotion of I'M ALERT Food Safety CD-Rom
- Continuing discussions on draft Food Safety Policy for AIEH from July 2006, and posted to AIEH Web Forum for comments.
- Promotion of Food Safety Week

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Western Australian / Northern Territory Branch (continued)

- Circulation of FSANZ newsletters
- Organised Food Safety Workshop in December 2006

### **Belinda Lang MAIEH**

*Food SIG Convener (to May 2007)*

#### **Disease Control/Health Promotion Special Interest Group**

The Disease Control/Health Promotion Special Interest Group (SIG) was established to provide an email forum for exchange of information and related issues for members of the AIEH. Its structure links into the AIEH National SIG structure enabling national issues to be quickly disseminated to members and providing an avenue for a prompt response.

Disease control and health promotion are playing an increasing role in an EHO's professional activities. Health promotion strategies of program planning, implementation and evaluation are useful for all EHOs when designing programs which may not be directly contained within the definition of 'health promotion'. The SIG contributed to the AIEH becoming a member of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) in 2006.

Communicable diseases are on the increase worldwide, with both existing and emerging diseases claiming lives on almost every continent. SARS, vCJD, Avian Influenza and Marburg Haemorrhagic Fever are causing increasing concern for health authorities in the twenty-first century, with the more recognisable diseases of Poliomyelitis, Ebola and Cholera also of continuing concern.

The SIG has steadily increased its membership with the addition of student members. SIG members aim to communicate regularly by email, with interaction between members generally via the Convener. All communication is designed to be two-way participation.

The number of members of the SIG as at November 2006 was 48. Membership lists are maintained through the AIEH WA/NT Branch Office.

### **Toni Hannelly MAIEH**

*Disease Control/Health Promotion SIG Convener*

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

##### **Introduction**

Environmental management is an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to sustainability, being to manage and protect our natural, built and social environments.

Environmental management is one of many key responsibilities of Environmental Health Practitioners. The Environmental Management Special Interest Group (EM-SIG) aims to develop written policy positions in respect of environmental management using experience, knowledge and skills of its members. ([www.aieh.org.au/sigs/environman.php](http://www.aieh.org.au/sigs/environman.php)).

In 2007 no members initiated discussion of interest in this area. The convener challenged members to contribute to the forum with simple ideas aimed to maintain and generate interest. The convener led by example by contributing to the process by posing 'Barbeque stopper' questions such as; "Have the Federal government and the State Governments got Environmental Management right? They certainly seem to have been talking the talk to win votes – that is what it is all about for them! – and in some ways each are competing for the front running in some projects that we have seen developed and implemented in the last couple of years! How does this affect you – desalination, wind power, nuclear energy and waste management? Is lead ore still useful or required anywhere in the world? Do you have a position on any of these that you want to share with members?"

Where AIEH Members have a special interest or can access industry and professional information for the group, then they are encouraged to join this SIG and to participate. The SIG provides a forum and connection to its members to share information relevant to its purpose and objectives. This SIG also incorporates catchment management issues.

When the SIG Convener receives relevant e-mails or relevant information it is posted on the web based forum. The Convener will ensure that the group is aware of the SIG Member's proposal and seek comment so that the SIG continues to be relevant to its Members.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the SIG is to:

1. Promote knowledge, activities and projects related to environmental management in the field of environmental health;
2. Pass on relevant environmental management information to SIG members;
3. Develop policy or a position for AIEH on related issues; and

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Western Australian / Northern Territory Branch (continued)

4. Comment, in a timely manner on relevant environmental management policy and legislation.

The SIG convenor will recommend to the AIEH Legislation Review Committee of the position that the AIEH could adopt in relation to environmental management issues.

### Objectives

The objectives of the SIG are to:

1. Encourage SIG Members to attend relevant courses, seminars and special events;
2. Promote and improve liaison between environment agencies and SIG Members;
3. Promote the role of SIG Members in environmental issues at all levels in the community, including all levels of government; and
4. Distribute information on environmental management to SIG Members in a timely manner.

Joseph Zappavigna coordinates the WA/NT SIG. The SIG has steadily increased its membership with the addition of student and associate members and in 2006 had 45 members. SIG members aim to communicate regularly by e-mail.

### Joseph Zappavigna MAIEH

*Environmental Management SIG Convener*

### Indigenous Environmental Health SIG

"Good environmental health conditions are an essential requirement for maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities".

Environmental Health is concerned with creating and maintaining environments that promote good public health by addressing those aspects of human health determined by physical, chemical, biological and social factors in the environment.

Whilst a long and healthy life is an achievable goal for most Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities suffer higher than average levels of morbidity and mortality. There is evidence that these populations suffer disproportionate impact from both increased exposures to environmental hazards and decreased access to services.

The environments in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples live are recognised as having a strong impact on health. Addressing the environmental risks can play an important part in enhancing the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The SIG believes the AIEH needs to develop a policy position in relation to Aboriginal Environmental Health.

The Branch Indigenous Environmental Health Special Interest Group (SIG) has been working to highlight and address issues relevant to improving the environmental health conditions for Indigenous persons.

The National Indigenous Environmental Health Conference (held every two (2) years), was in May 2007 at the Cairns Convention Centre.

### Membership of the SIG

There were around 49 members of the Indigenous EH SIG, across Western Australia and Northern Territory. The SIG has provided regular liaison between members and comment on various proposals throughout the year.

### Tony Morley MAIEH (to May 2007)

*Indigenous Environmental Health SIG Convener*

### Regional Group Reports

The WA/NT Branch has continued to support a Regional Group network during the year however several groups have elected not to be part of the AIEH and hence bound by its Constitution and Bylaws. The groups currently associated with the AIEH are the Northwest Group, Great Southern Group, South West Group, Eastern Goldfields Group and the Northern Territory Group. All groups have met during the year with the exception of the Northern Territory Group. Groups have continued to provide an opportunity for professional networking and updates on a variety of issues during the reporting period.

The Branch Council is continuing to provide reports and where possible an attendee at meetings of Regional Groups that have left the organisation, although all financial support of these has ceased.

### North West Region

The North West Regional Group had another successful year this year with two meetings being held, one in Broome and the

# Branch Presidents' Reports

## Western Australian / Northern Territory Branch (continued)

other held in conjunction with the Branch Conference in Fremantle. It was very beneficial having a meeting in Fremantle this year as it allowed the group to meet with other members and staff of the AIEH, including Branch President Darren Ponton, Branch Councillors and Branch Executive Officer Jackie Breasley. The group was also fortunate to have members of the Department of Environment at both meetings. One of the main issues discussed at the meetings was the shortage of experienced EHOs in regional areas and what can be done to rectify this problem.

The North West Regional Group also agreed to assist with organising a 2 and/or 4-day Mosquito Management Course in Karratha / Roebourne in 2008. This course would be made available to employees of mining companies operating in the North West which have become of rising importance in the management of environmental health. The group is looking forward to more courses in the North West next year.

The group includes both EHOs and Aboriginal Field Support Officers in 2007 in the Kimberley region and is well supported by the Department of Health.

Like many regions a priority has been dealing with the issues of Murray Valley Encephalitis throughout the region. In some areas it is still prevalent and this remains a significant environmental health challenge for the group members into the future.

### **South West Region**

The South West Regional Group met on three (3) occasions during the year to discuss a variety of contemporary environmental health issues. The Branch President attended one meeting.

### **Great Southern Region**

The Great Southern Regional Group met regularly during the year to discuss a variety of contemporary environmental health issues.

### **Northern Territory Regional Group**

The group did not meet during the year due to significant staff movements within the region, however discussion has been underway between Branch Councillors and an active group of members in this region. Environmental health in the Northern Territory is a priority for the Branch, and the Branch Council has arrangements in place to accept a Branch Councillor from the Territory to act as a Regional Group Secretary in the 2007-2008 financial year.

### **Eastern Goldfields Regional Group**

The group did not meet during the year due to significant staff movements within the region.

### **Conclusion**

I would like to thank the members and the many volunteers that have supported the Branch throughout 2006 – 2007 and I look forward to working with you in the interest of environmental health for the coming year.

### **Darren Ponton MAIEH**

*Branch President WA/NT Branch*

# Initiatives of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health

## Australian Food Safety Assessment (AFSA)

AFSA and the AIEH's Food Safety Standard of Practice were launched in September 2003. Developed by the Food Management Working Group, these tools have been developed to promote accountability and consistency in the monitoring of food safety standards by Environmental Health Practitioners.

While AFSA has become well established as an AIEH professional practice resource, there is scope for growth and, in keeping with the goal of accountability and consistency of practice in the profession, non-users are encouraged to consider the benefits that AFSA can bring to their workplace. Since its launch training presentations have taken place across Australia and to assist environmental health professionals in remote locations, a training slideshow is available at [www.aieh.org.au/afsa/training.php](http://www.aieh.org.au/afsa/training.php).

With increasing acceptance and utilisation of new technology, eAFSA continues to grow. Open Office and ioGlobal now have eAFSA available in the suite of products and several workplaces have pursued development of eAFSA in-house as a preferable option. To enable the use of preferred providers and expand the availability of eAFSA, AIEH welcomes new partnerships with software developers. Further information and contact details for Open Office and ioGlobal can be found at [www.aieh.org.au/afsa/eafsa.php](http://www.aieh.org.au/afsa/eafsa.php).

AFSA, Designer AFSA and eAFSA are marketed by Mina Labaz, Executive Officer SA Branch.

### **Ian Hawkins MAIEH**

*Chairperson, Food Management Working Group*

## FoodSafe®

In 2006 the AIEH marked 10 years and 10 thousand sales of FoodSafe®!

FoodSafe® is an in-house training program that brings basic food hygiene information directly to food handlers. Once the food handlers have undergone basic food safety training and demonstrated that they have implemented the food safety practices, an Environmental Health Officer recognises this achievement by awarding the FoodSafe® Certificate and window sticker. FoodSafe® was developed by the AIEH in 1996 and underwent a revision in 2003 to align with the national Food Safety Standards. FoodSafe® PLUS is the 'second step' for food businesses already holding FoodSafe® certification that want to develop their own food safety program to manage food safety risks. FoodSafe® PLUS applies the principles of hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) to guide the business through the FoodSafe® PLUS Manual to develop their own Quality Policy Statement. Both FoodSafe® and FoodSafe® PLUS are unique in the marketplace, as they are competitively priced and allow the business to implement the program at their own pace, with the assistance of EHPs.

FoodSafe® has performed reasonably well under the revised version although budget targets were not met in terms of sales. As the FoodSafe® office was without an executive officer from November 2006 to February 2007, there was no marketing during this period, and sales were administered by volunteers and a contracted executive assistant. The profit for FoodSafe® (after stock write-off) fell short of expectation which has also highlighted the need for the organisation to invest in the product to ensure its future viability.

Despite an innovative legislative framework for food safety, sales of FoodSafe® in Victoria remained low until mid 2007. A reason for this was the launch by the FoodSafe® Committee at the 2006 Victorian Branch Conference of a new 'Guide for Proprietors' CD, specifically for food businesses using a mandated Food Safety Program (which can be used anywhere, not just in Victoria). Additionally, the training program within FoodSafe®, is an excellent tool for Victoria's accredited Food Safety Supervisors to use to train their subordinates.

Demand for the new DVD which includes a menu format and additional material, such as the 'Welcome to FoodSafe®' presentation in English, and six (6) Asian languages, was sufficiently high for the AIEH to be able to sell the DVDs alone to existing customers to replace the old VCDs and VHS cassettes.

The AIEH Board accepted a report from the CEO and FoodSafe® Committee to develop an On-line Learning version of the FoodSafe® program. There is now a demand for this format from many larger industries that have dispersed food handling staff such as facility management companies and child-care chains. The proposed launch date is early in the 2007-2008 financial year. A draft version of the on line learning website has been uploaded and even the development version is very exciting.

Another innovation developed by the FoodSafe® Committee is the 'FoodSafe® Aware' program, which will acknowledge businesses that support the food industry, and have staff trained in food safety to the level required in FoodSafe®. So far requests have come from commercial cleaning and pest control companies servicing the food industry, showing that recognition and knowledge of the FoodSafe® logo is widespread in the industry. The release of 'FoodSafe® Aware' is awaiting development of a licensing arrangement for corporate customers, related to the online learning system.

### **Darren Ponton MAIEH**

*Chair, FoodSafe Committee*

# Initiatives of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health

## I'M ALERT

I'M ALERT Food Safety launched at the AIEH National Conference in Sydney on 8 November 2006, is a food safety training program based on Food Safety Standards (3.2.2 and 3.2.3) and is an interactive training CD that steps food handlers through an entertaining presentation and interactive quizzes on subjects such as Food Storage, Temperature Control, Cross-Contamination and Hygiene of Food Handlers. The product was developed by Environmental Health Officers and AIEH is the exclusive marketing and distribution agent, receiving royalties on all sales of the product.

The sale and pricing structure of I'M ALERT Food Safety allows for significant discounts where the product is purchased in bulk quantities (minimum 100). It is ideal for Local Governments, State Health Departments, large training providers and organisations who purchase the product in bulk and distribute to their food handlers and food safety trainees.

The product has been well received with sales across all States. Further marketing of this fantastic training tool will greatly increase sales as potential customers become aware of how much time and money such a training tool will save them. It is a great alternative to current face to face training and potentially enables all food handlers to be trained using their own PC and in their own time.

The product is currently available as a PC CD ROM, however developments are underway to have the program available to conduct on line. This is expected to occur by November 2007. It is further anticipated that, subject to funding availability, the product will be developed with multilingual functionality which will allow people of non-English speaking background to undertake the training.

### **Waikay Lau**

*Chief Executive Officer*

## *Environmental Health Journal*

Environmental Health has successfully published four issues comprised of thirty-three papers during the 2006-2007 contract period. Of these papers, fifteen were Research & Theory papers, nine Practice, Policy and Law papers, one Guest Editorial from Nancy Cromar and eight Reports & Reviews. Since Thomas Tenkate's appointment as Book Editor, the number of book reviews has doubled since our last contract period.

Submissions of manuscripts to the journal have been consistent, with a surprising increase from international authors from countries including Iran, the Congo, and South Korea. Due to this increase and feedback from contributors, we are currently reviewing ways to increase the journal's international profile, researching the journal's potential to be added to high-profile international electronic databases such as Medline.

A wide range of environmental health topics were covered in each issue, with an overall high proportion of papers on education and training in environmental health, air pollution and sustainability. It has also been pleasing to see an increase in the number of case-studies or field reports submitted by environmental health professionals. Only one paper was published on Indigenous health during this period, which highlights the need for extra effort in attracting papers from professionals in this area. A special issue on Indigenous environmental health would be of great interest and efforts will be made to attract papers for this purpose over the next twelve months.

Of course, the publication of *Environmental Health* would not be possible without the support provided by our peer reviewers. Their assistance and recommendations have been greatly appreciated. The Editorial Committee listing is still under review, with changes to be formalized by the end of 2007.

Thank you to the Commonwealth Government for the provision of funding for Environmental Health during this period.

### **Dr Jim Smith LFAIEH**

*Environmental Health Journal Editor*



# Initiatives of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health

## International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)

Chair's Report on the progress of the International Federation of Environmental Health 10th World Congress Brisbane, Australia, May 11-16, 2008.

The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) seeks to provide a network to exchange information and experience on environmental health, to hold congresses and meetings to discuss subjects relevant to environmental health science, policy and management, to represent the interests of environmental health to state agencies, national governments and international organisations and to promote teaching and research in environmental health.

IFEH works to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries where environmental health issues are across boundaries. It promotes the interchange of people working in this sector and the exchange of Member's publications of a scientific and technical nature. IFEH was formed in 1986 and is made up of over 30 member countries, of which, the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) is one of the founding members.

In 1988 as a part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations, AIEH hosted the Inaugural IFEH World Congress of Environmental Health in Sydney. It was a week-long conference that attracted over 1,288 delegates from 23 nations. This established the pattern for future IFEH biennial international gatherings around the globe. The IFEH 10th World Congress will once again return to Australia and be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre in Brisbane 11-16 May 2008. The World Congress will be integrated with the Annual AIEH Queensland Branch and AIEH National Conferences.

The AIEH has established an International Organising Committee (IOC) and planning has been underway since early 2005. Members of the Committee include Chair Dr Peter Davey, Prof Cordia Chu, AIEH Director Bruce Morton, Dr Tomas Tenkate, John Cohen, CEO Waikay Lau and our Executive Officer Jo Rolls. The IOC has now moved to implementation of the Congress in collaboration with AIEH President Dr Jim Smith and other Board Directors, the Queensland Branch Council, Members, Brisbane City Council, Gold Coast City Council and other agencies. Sponsorship details are on the website. The Singapore Society of Environmental Health, the Malaysian Health Inspection Association and the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health are assisting from the Asia Pacific Region. An International Faculty Forum will be held for academics on Sunday 11 May 2008. We look forward to networking with our partners Commonwealth Government, enHealth and Queensland Health along with other sponsors.

This will be an opportunity for AIEH/IFEH and its members to present our work to the World. During the congress there will be plenary and breakout sessions based on the congress theme. The website has a comprehensive list of themes and sub-themes, a second call for papers has so far attracted over 150 papers from across the globe and further abstracts are welcome.

The Australian Institute of Environmental Health and IFEH cordially invite you to attend the 2008 IFEH 10th World Congress in Brisbane and we look forward to your support. Thanks to our Conference Organiser Adam Druce who will post update information at [www.ifeh2008.org](http://www.ifeh2008.org).

### **Peter Davey** FAIEH

*IFEH Council Director and Chair of the IFEH 10th World Congress on Environmental Health in Brisbane 2008*

# Initiatives of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health

## AIEH Environmental Health Course Accreditation Committee & EH Educators' Forum

### **AIEH Environmental Health Course Accreditation Committee**

The role of the AIEH Course Accreditation Subcommittee is, on behalf of the Board, to receive and assess applications for accreditation of Environmental Health Officer qualification courses. Applications for accreditation are assessed against the AIEH Course Accreditation Policy. In November 2006 the Board adopted the revised Course Accreditation Policy which now contains the policy to address post-graduate pathways/courses.

As can be seen the Committee undertook the following – two re-accreditations, one conditional accreditation and one new accreditation assessments.

Date of Accreditation Assessment	Applicant	Status
Oct 26, 2006	Flinders University Bachelor of Environmental Health	Re-accreditation
Nov 22, 2006	University of Tasmania Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health)	*Conditional Accreditation * Process started
Nov 30 2006	Curtin University Bachelor of Science (Env Health)	Re-accreditation
	Master of Environmental Health	New Accreditation

Members of the Committee in 2006 – 2007 were: Jim Smith (Chair), Owen Ashby, Bruce Morton, Ron Fry, Thomas Tenkate and Waikay Lau.

### **Dr Jim Smith** LFAIEH

*Chair, AIEH Course Accreditation Subcommittee*

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[www.NSCEH.com](http://www.NSCEH.com)

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Cartridge World is an Australian company that started in Adelaide in 1997. It is now a global company with over 1600 stores operating in 42 countries.

Cartridge World is the largest ink and toner cartridge refilling franchise in the world, being recognized in 2006 and 2007 as the #1 Toner Replacement Service by Entrepreneur Magazine Franchise 500 issue, 2007. Every cartridge refilled at Cartridge World is guaranteed and can be re-used many times. Not only does this save customers money, it also reduces their impact on the environment.

The sad truth is that only a small percentage of printer cartridges are reused here in Australia. The amount of cartridges that end up in landfill exceeds 1500 tonnes annually – [www.ecooffice.com.au](http://www.ecooffice.com.au) (accessed 27/6/07). Every time a cartridge is reused it is one less cartridge that goes to landfill and one less cartridge that has to be replaced by a new one.

The Cartridge World business was founded on the concept that by reusing cartridges it will save you dollars, save you time and save the environment. Good environmental management is fundamental to Cartridge World's management philosophy. As such our commitment is to:

- Continually improve the standards of environmental aware-

ness and commitment within its operations and franchises and communicate this to its vendors, contractors and customers

- Develop and implement procedures to minimize pollutions and environmental risks as best practice in the industry
- Promote the exchange of environmental management information throughout the group
- Comply with environmental statutory regulations

Cartridge World actively supports community education – [Fillsworld.org](http://Fillsworld.org) is an interactive website that encourages children to develop their environment awareness and consider the impact that everyone has on the earth in their daily activities. Our mascot Fill is our ambassador for the environment and is involved in many environmental initiatives. These include:

- Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) – Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities
  - KAB Week
  - Schools recycling cartridges program
  - Cartridge recycling bins at our stores and in the community
- Cartridge World can help you to reduce landfill and save your business money:
- Refill ink and laser cartridges
  - Photocopy and fax supplies
  - Quality print and photo paper
  - Collection and delivery by arrangement
  - Business accounts welcome
  - Quality service – 100% guaranteed

Reusing cartridges makes good sense; do you throw away the baby's bottle when it's empty?

To find out more about how you can make a difference to the environment and save your business money, contact your nearest Cartridge World store on:

Toll free – 1300 666 122  
[www.cartridgeworld.com.au](http://www.cartridgeworld.com.au)

# The Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Plan

The City of Salisbury has partnered with the neighbouring councils of the cities of Playford and Tea Tree Gully to create the Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Plan. This visionary initiative is already delivering greater water use efficiencies and significant environmental, social and commercial benefits.

The City of Salisbury covers some 161 square kilometres, extending from the Para Escarpment and the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges in the east, to the shores of Gulf St Vincent in the west.

Stormwater run-off from the highly developed urban catchment is detained and regulated in a series of flood control dams constructed in the upper reaches of the catchment. These dams, constructed to handle a one in 100 year flood, are used to regulate the flow of water into a series of pipes and open channels which deliver the water to a network of constructed wetlands. The reed beds of the wetlands filter and cleanse the water, removing sediment, suspended matter, nutrients and heavy metals.

The cleansed stormwater is 'harvested' and injected into underground limestone aquifers to provide a buffer storage for the drier months.

The cleansed water is recovered and pumped via distribution mains for irrigation of Council parks and reserves and School sports grounds. It is also increasingly being used by industrial and commercial users with high water dependency to reduce their consumption of mains water.

A key to the success of Councils water recycling initiatives has been the very high quality of the raw water harvested from the

urban catchment.

Council's Public and Environmental Health Section has developed and implemented the Clean Site Program. The program is undertaken due to the high level of development in the area. The program involves regular and random monitoring of construction and development sites and the enforcement of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy.

It focuses on enforcement of the policy and education of builders and developers in an effort to inform them of their responsibilities and their impact on the environment. The main areas of the program are sediment run off, drag out and uncontained blow-able waste.

Sediment run off and drag out is of particular concern as the sediment enters the stormwater system and eventually into the wetlands, reducing their capacity and introducing trace metals and other contaminants into the environment.

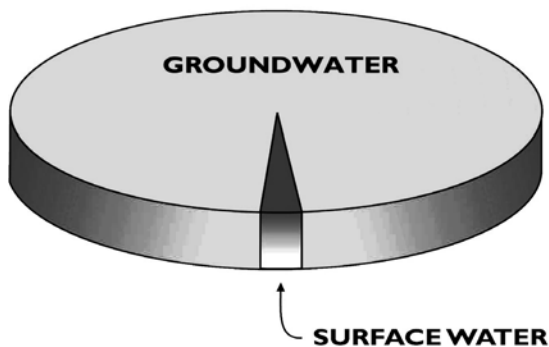
Blow-able waste can leave the site and enter the surrounding environment if not properly contained, creating both an impairment to the amenity due to unsightly litter on streets, road, reserves and other properties and a costly operational impact where it has to be removed prior to the wetlands and water harvesting schemes.

In the 2006/07 financial year the City of Salisbury issued 56 Environmental Protection Orders, to builders, developers and contractors. In addition to the orders 48 expiations were issued for breaching a mandatory provision of the Environment Protection Policy.

For further information please visit [www.salisbury.sa.gov.au](http://www.salisbury.sa.gov.au)

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Centre for Groundwater Studies

#### 2007 Groundwater Short Courses & Workshops

*Early registration is advised, as places are limited.*

1 <sup>st</sup> FEFLOW Groundwater Modelling Course	Tues 9 - Fri 12 Oct 2007	WA
2 <sup>nd</sup> FEFLOW Groundwater Modelling Course	Tues 16 - Fri 19 Oct 2007	QLD
34 <sup>th</sup> Australian Groundwater School	Mon 26 - Fri 30 Nov 2007	TAS

#### 2008 Groundwater Short Courses & Workshops

6 <sup>th</sup> ASR National Workshop: <i>Management of Aquifer Recharge, Storage and Treatment</i>	Mon 21- Wed 23 April 2008	VIC
17 <sup>th</sup> Getting To Know Groundwater and Surfacewater	Wed 7 - Fri 9 May 2008	WA
35 <sup>th</sup> Australian Groundwater School	Mon 14 - Fri 18 July 2008	WA
9 <sup>th</sup> Australian Groundwater Modelling School: <i>Concepts; Application GMS; PEST</i>	Tues 5 - Fri 8 Aug 2008	VIC
10 <sup>th</sup> Australian Groundwater Modelling School: <i>Concepts; Application GMS; PEST</i>	Tues 12 - Fri 15 Aug 2008	WA
6 <sup>th</sup> Soil and Groundwater Pollution: <i>Characterisation, Remediation and Risk Management</i>	Mon 25 - Thur 29 Aug 2008	WA
7 <sup>th</sup> Soil and Groundwater Pollution: <i>Characterisation, Remediation and Risk Management</i>	Mon 1 - Fri 5 Sept 2008	NSW
1 <sup>st</sup> Surface Water-Groundwater Interactions Workshop: <i>Introduction to Modelling Approaches</i>	Wed 24 - Fri 26 Sept 2008	NSW
3 <sup>rd</sup> New Zealand Getting to Know Groundwater & Surfacewater	Wed 15 - Fri 17 Oct 2008	NZ
36 <sup>th</sup> Australian Groundwater School	Mon 3 - Fri 7 Nov 2008	QLD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Geochemical & Reactive Transport Modelling: <i>Mainly PHREEQC; with MT3DMS; PHT3D</i>	Mon 24 - Fri 28 Nov 2008	QLD

Web: [www.groundwater.com.au](http://www.groundwater.com.au)



# Hassall & Associates Environmental Services



## Waste Water Reuse Specialists

- Study Preparation EIS & EMP
- Hydraulic and Nutrient Modelling
- Practical Irrigation Design
- Project Management
- Monitoring Services
- Full Contract Management
- Community / EPA Liaison

### Major Projects:

- Greengrove Irrigation System (Dept Commerce, Dept Energy, Dubbo City Council)
- Bobaden Irrigation Project (Ulan Coal Mines Limited)
- Picton Regional Effluent Reuse System (Sydney Water Trans Utilities)
- Karuah Effluent Reuse System (NSW Dept Public Works and Services)

### Contact:

PH: (02) 6884 6250

Email: [amurphy@hassall.com.au](mailto:amurphy@hassall.com.au)

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<http://www.awqc.com.au>





## Greengrove Effluent Reuse Scheme (Dubbo City Council)

The safe and environmentally sustainable treatment of human waste is a challenge for all communities as populations grow and fragile waterways are threatened. Dubbo City Council faced this challenge by treating effluent as a usable resource rather than a waste problem.

The Greengrove Effluent Reuse Scheme is Council's practical and far-sighted response to the serious waste disposal, environmental and urban issues that were identified in the early 1990's following widespread toxic algae blooms throughout the Murray Darling basin.

Following involvement over several years (after competitive tendering) in the assessment, concept development, EIS preparation and scheme design, Hassall & Associates were awarded the contract to construct and commission the Green-grove Scheme which will accommodate Dubbo's reclaimed water reuse needs for many years.

The scheme consists of 208ha of irrigation (6 centre pivots), associated infrastructure (power, pipelines, roads, stormwater management, fencing, etc) and paddock preparation (approximate on-farm contract value is \$3.5 million). Construction commenced in March 2004 and was completed ahead of schedule (Aug 2004). Then after completing the interim establishment works, Hassall and Associates won the Operation and Management contract, which they commenced in March 2005, and have recently been awarded the contract out to 2012.

Hassall & Associates were the head contractors and utilized a number of specialist sub contractors to complete the works.

The project involved fence removal (with all materials being recycled), upgrade and replacement of fencing (totalling 11km),

4,840 metres of poly pipe line (200 to 450mm diameter), supply and erection of six pivot irrigators, 7,500 metres of roadways using 18,500 tonne of road base, 4,000 metres of high voltage overhead power and 3,000 metres of underground low voltage power, planting 12,000 trees, construction of 6,000 metres of stormwater diversion and collection banks, a control and filter station, 28 groundwater monitoring bores, a soil moisture monitoring system and a weather station.

Treated reclaimed water is pumped from the 1,000ML storage at the upgraded Troy Sewerage Treatment Plant on the out-skirts of Dubbo, via a pipeline to the Greengrove property, some 12km north of Dubbo along the Newell Highway. The reclaimed water is then distributed and scheduled to six pivot irrigators covering 208ha. The reclaimed water is used to produce high quality fodder (principally lucerne, hay and silage) which is sold, via a merchant, to surrounding dairy farmers, feedlots and other livestock enterprises.

The scheme has recently been expanded to include an 80 ha pivot irrigator (farmer owned) on the neighbouring property "Pollsdale". This move will guarantee the capacity of the scheme to accommodate Dubbo's waste water needs well into the future.

Dubbo City Council has also joined forces with Narromine Shire Council, Hassall and Associates and the Central West Catchment Management Authority in an exciting new project to produce native pasture grass seed under effluent irrigation. The project will provide a base for the testing, evaluation, demonstration and further development of techniques and the equipment required for the establishment, harvesting and overall management of native grasses.





# Noise management for city residents

A range of noise management initiatives has been developed by Adelaide City Council to assist City residents concerned with external noise entering their homes.

The program incorporates an Australian-first noise reduction incentive scheme through which residents can receive cash grants of up to \$400. The grant can be used to assist with installation of a range of approved upgrades, such as double glazing for windows, sound rated doors, wall and ceiling insulation and high quality seals.

Free workshops have also been facilitated for residents to learn more about the initiatives, which include a 'noise ready reckoner', free acoustic advice and a range of information guides.

Adelaide City Council Lord Mayor Michael Harbison described the 'noise ready reckoner' as a unique online tool to assist prospective buyers and new residents understand how noise might affect them in their home.

"The 'noise ready reckoner' provides an outline of the impact of noise on a property and can be accessed from Council's website."

"Council's grant incentive scheme assists current residents to address any concerns in a practical manner. City residents are also able to take advantage of free acoustic advice, which can provide easy solutions for addressing external noise infiltrating the home," said Mr Harbison.

"Effective management of noise is essential in ensuring Adelaide retains its vitality and excitement, while facilitating an attractive living environment," said Mr Harbison.

The noise management program was formulated with the

input of a reference group, membership of which included resident, business, industry and local precinct group representatives, as well as technical support provided by Bassett Acoustics.

Mr Darren Jurevicius, State Manager for Bassett Acoustics, says the program is a positive, pro-active way for residents to learn how to both measure the impact of noise, and also to retrofit noise attenuation measures.

"Various aspects of this program offer something for every potential or existing City resident.

"This approach by Adelaide City Council ensures residents have every opportunity to resolve any concerns regarding noise in their homes," says Mr Jurevicius.

Since the program's inception in early 2007, more than 100 people have benefited from various aspects program including attending workshops, receiving advice and investigating noise attenuation measures for their home. In addition, 40 property sector representatives took part in workshops to increase awareness of Council's Development Plan and technical details on noise attenuation measures.

A series of technical fact sheets have been developed to cover a range of topics including insulation, ventilation, and frequently used terminology. Specifically created to give detailed assistance and guidance, the technical fact sheets encourage best practice design solutions.

*Further information regarding noise management initiatives can be found on Adelaide City Council's website: [www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/noise](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/noise) or Bassett Acoustics website:*

## BASSETT



## Bassett Acoustics

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- Industrial
- Research
- Planning
- Environmental
- Defence
- Policy

For more information go to:  
[www.bassettacoustics.com.au](http://www.bassettacoustics.com.au)  
[acoustics@bassett.com.au](mailto:acoustics@bassett.com.au)

# Environmental management services

**3**60 Environmental Pty Ltd (360 Environmental) provides leading practice environmental management services and advice to governments and private organisations utilising desalination to provide sustainable water supplies. 360 Environmental is a contemporary, professional and results-orientated organisation with considerable practical experience in the field of desalination technology. We provide proven environmental management services from conception through design and construction to operation for large scale infrastructure projects. We have worked successfully in alliances and joint ventures to deliver outstanding environmental results.

360 Environmental developed significant expertise in the desalination field and is recognised as one of the foremost providers of environmental management services to the rapidly expanding desalination industry in Australia.

Recent and current projects have included:

- **Western Australia:**
  - o Burrup Peninsula Industrial Seawater Supplies Project – (Project Environmental Manager). A 280ML/day thermal desalination plant.
  - o Perth Seawater Desalination Plant (Project Environmental Management for overall Scheme). A 45GL/annum reverse osmosis desalination plant.
  - o Southern Source Desalination Plant (Project Environmental Management). A proposed 50GL/annum, with expansion capacity to 100GL/annum using reverse osmosis technology.
  - o Planning for the proposed Esperance Seawater Desalination Plant
- **New South Wales** – Sydney Desalination Plant. Coordinating an international benchmarking study into the environmental impacts of large scale desalination plants and mitigation options and the provision of technical advice.
- **Victoria** – Victorian Desalination Plant (Expert Advice and Peer review role for the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Victorian Environmental Protection Authority). A proposed 150GL/annum plant using reverse osmosis technology.
- **Queensland:**
  - o Tugan Desalination Plant (Advice to the Queensland Environmental Protection Authority).
  - o Provision of environmental and financial advice to assist in



Photos: Marine Monitoring in Cockburn Sound (Photo: Courtesy of Water Corporation)



Towing the Real Time Monitoring System into Place

the feasibility assessment of a second Queensland Seawater Desalination Plant.

## Desalination and Community Consultation

360 Environmental has undertaken extensive liaison with the community and representative bodies on behalf of Client organisations. This has contributed to understanding the need for large scale desalination in the context of climate change. Communications have involved; reporting, presentations, brochures, websites, displays and advertisements.

## Desalination Services Provided by 360 Environmental

360 Environmental provides the following environmental services associated with large-scale desalination projects:

- Siting studies and investigations
- Contamination and acid sulphate soils
- Overall project environmental management
- Community and key stakeholder consultation and progress communication
- Audit
- Aboriginal heritage consultation
- Regulator relationship management
- Approvals – Environmental Scoping Documents and Environmental Impact Assessment Documents, Registration, Licensing and Works Approval. Approvals management including:
  - o Environmental approvals for integration projects
  - o Development applications
  - o Aboriginal approvals under Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
  - o Federal referrals
- Compliance management for Ministerial Conditions attached to the environmental approval and the associated Environmental Management Plans, including:
  - o Consultative Environmental Management Plan
  - o Water Quality Management Plan including the management of:
    - a) Expert review for diffuser design
    - b) Whole effluent toxicity testing for seawater concentrate
    - c) Modelling nearfield and farfield fate of seawater concentrate and validation surveys
    - d) Farfield real-time monitoring for operations
    - e) Baseline and operational water quality monitoring
    - f) Macrobenthic investigations
    - g) Sediment oxygen demand assessment
- Greenhouse Gas Management



Dual Media Filters

- Noise Management
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Nitrogen Loading Management
- National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) reporting
- Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) development for filter backwash
- Dewatering management for site and integration works (assessment, implementation and reporting)
- Dredging and backfill environmental management
- Marine monitoring and reporting
- Site training – inductions and education
- Foredune restoration and rehabilitation along pipeline routes
- Construction Environmental Management for integration

- assets (pipeline and pump station)
- Wetland Management

**Technical Papers and Presentations**

360 Environmental has authored technical papers and presented at international conferences on leading edge environmental management for large-scale desalination facilities.

**Memberships**

Staff at 360 Environmental are members of the International Desalination Association (IDA) and the Australian Water Association (AWA).

**Contact Us**

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# Food safety training is good for everyone

By Margret Leslie, Director,  
CFT International (RTO #21120) Specialists in Food Safety training

**B**asic food safety training improves the bottom line for most food businesses – staff take more pride in their work; there is less waste; and customers can have more confidence in the food they consume.

Food Safety training in units of competence from a relevant training package, must be delivered by a Registered Training Organization (RTO) to enable staff to be issued with a nationally-recognised unit of competency code on their certificate.

Training options are available to suit the needs of everyone. Training may be carried out in-house for a group of employees, in a public class, via correspondence or online. (To find Food safety online Google Food Safety Training.)

Typical Basic Food Safety Training includes:

- The hazards associated with the main types of products including chilled and hot products and the types of bacteria that are associated with them.
- The problems associated with product packaging such as leaks in vacuum packs, damage to packaging or pest infestation,

as well as problems and diseases spread by pests.

- Food handling. This includes safe procedures for each process such as receiving, re-packing, food storage, preparation and cooking, cooling and re-heating, displaying products, handling products when serving customers, packaging, cleaning and sanitizing, pest control, transport and delivery. Also the causes of cross contamination.
- Customers who are particularly at risk of food-borne illness, including allergies and intolerance.
- Correct cleaning and sanitizing procedures, cleaning products and their correct use, and the storage of cleaning items such as brushes, mops and cloths.
- Personal hygiene, hand washing, illness, and protective clothing.

After completing this essential training, proprietors should keep a staff training record to show duty of care and compliance with Food Standard 3.2.2

For further information phone 1300 665 633 or [www.cft.com.au](http://www.cft.com.au)

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Website: [www.cft.com.au](http://www.cft.com.au) ACN 089 626 504

# Electronic waste

**E**lectronic waste (e-waste) is growing three times faster than overall waste as Australians regularly upgrade their products with new models according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Australians buy more than 2.4 million new computers each year. Australians will have discarded or stockpiled a total of nine million computers, five million printers and two million scanners within the next two years.

Australia is one of the few developed countries that still allows e-waste to be dumped in landfill. Unless consumers change their habits, or Government legislation intervenes, less than 10% of e-waste will be recycled.

Why is e-waste recycling important? Firstly, e-waste contains a number of non-renewable resources. For example a computer is 23% plastic, 32% ferrous metals, 18% non-ferrous metals (lead, cadmium, antimony, beryllium, chromium and mercury), 12% electronic boards (gold, palladium, silver and platinum) and 15% glass.

Secondly, computers harbour a number of toxic chemicals that can be hazardous if dumped in landfill as over time the chemicals can leach out into groundwater, contaminating soil, waterways and ultimately our children. For example, PC monitors can carry Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT) that contains about 20 per cent lead. The same CRT's are also found in old style televisions and with the advent of high definition television, a surplus of unwanted old style TV's is likely to mount up.

1800EWASTE ([www.ewaste.com.au](http://www.ewaste.com.au)), is an Australian pioneer in the collection and recycling of e-waste.

1800EWASTE remove any kind of e-waste including computers, screens, printers, photocopiers, scanners, keyboards, mobile phones, televisions, dvds, vcrs, microwaves, stereos, cameras, electric toys and more.

All of the electronic waste collected by 1800EWASTE is taken to recycling depots where it is recycled. The level of recycling that is achieved is 98% by weight diverted from landfill. A recycling certificate and data destruction certificate is available upon request.

1800EWASTE charge per item of electronic waste and pricing varies depending on the item, the amount of labour required, insurance and recycling fees.



## COLLECTION & RECYCLING OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

We come to your home or office to pick up and remove any electrical products you have. The e-waste is recycled at accredited recycling stations and 98% of the product by weight is diverted from landfill.

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- Photocopiers
- Scanners
- Keyboards
- Mobile phone
- Televisions
- Microwaves
- Any electronics

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# A New Revolution in Absorbents...

**“Finally, an absorbent that will absorb both chemical AND hydrocarbon spills - and it’s re-usable!” states Ecospill CEO Kevan Goff. “SNOW absorbent is going to revolutionise the industry”.**

While there are currently many options available in absorbent products, from simple kitty litter, various floor sweeps to bio-active powders, few can match the efficiency of Snow Absorbent. Snow is a multi-purpose, super absorbent powder suitable for soaking up any kind of liquid, or semi-liquid substance, including all animal, vegetable, mineral, petroleum, paint and chemical liquids, (the only exception being hydrofluoric acid).

Snow is made from an inert inorganic blend of siliceous minerals containing sodium, potassium and aluminium in differed composition. It works by encapsulating the substance absorbed, trapping it inside the powder particles. This phenomenon is known as ‘silica encapsulation’, which is greatly aided by the particle structure: a hollow, reticular particle that encapsulates, traps and does not release the substance absorbed.

In fact, that which Snow absorbs becomes part of the silicate molecules.

## SNOW

**a RE-USABLE absorbent for both Hydrocarbon and Chemical Spills.**

Whatever the viscosity of substances, Snow soaks up any sort of liquids and leaves the surface clean and dry. It quickly turns the liquid into a solid that can easily be disposed.

As a multi-purpose dry absorbent powder it is safe for all applications and suitable for removing stains caused by petroleum products, paints, glycol, all liquid and semi-liquid food substances, body fluids, and most chemicals.

**“Unlike most absorbents available today, Snow Absorbent is re-usable” says Mr Goff. “We at Ecospill are proud to introduce it into the Australian market.”**

## Helping you meet your environmental obligations!



spill kits

sorbents

spill training

floor bunding

flammable storage

containment pallets

stormwater control



## SNOW

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[www.ecospill.com.au](http://www.ecospill.com.au)

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# Aerobin – the onsite household waste solution

Currently Australian householders contribute much putrifiable waste that is dumped in landfill facilities and these facilities give off large quantities of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, adding to the greenhouse effect. When organic materials decompose without air they get slimy, smelly and give off methane and nitrous oxide, two very potent greenhouse gases. At the same time householders are taking away the plant sources from their gardens and houses that (when composted) will feed back into gardens to maintain the normal carbon cycle. Anaerobic decomposition of organic waste emits harmful gases. Experts, like the late Professor Greg Loneragan of Swinburne University of Technology, Environment & Biotechnology Centre, say it is preferable to use more aerobic methods of decomposition to reduce the damage being done to the upper atmosphere.

Apart from the emission of harmful gases, the amount of rubbish collected for landfill is a problem in itself. Up to 50% of all household waste destined for landfill is composed of organic materials. If most of that organic waste could be disposed of aerobically and within households it would greatly reduce costs, both to the environment and to the local government services that handle our waste stream.

A breakthrough in consumer waste management is the Aerobin, a waste containment system that uses a patented "lung" or aeration core to promote aerobic decomposition of

organic matter. Together with thermal insulation to conserve heat losses, the system works quickly and efficiently all year, even in cooler regions, producing fertile compost, rich in humus for the garden. No need to turn, and very easy to use, the unit is sealed – discouraging vermin and pets. The carbon cycle is a global issue – Aerobin is the personally responsible local solution. Householders using the Aerobin can responsibly manage this critical aspect of their environmental impact.

Developed by an Australian company, this new technology came about as a result of concern for the future. The unit has been tested and proven to achieve the highest performance in composting against world ranking compost units at Swinburne University of Technology, Environment & Biotechnology Centre. Gem Australia Pty. Ltd. launched the Aerobin onto the Australian market in early April 2006 with widespread commercial acceptance.

The Aerobin unit is suitable for use by householders, body corporates and contractors. It is made of a sturdy plastic with an aeration core to promote aerobic decomposition, it recirculates moisture from wet organic waste material which assists in faster aerobic breakdown of the material. The thermal insulation within the outer walls conserve heat loss. A mix of wet and dry kitchen and garden waste is simply dropped into the top of the unit and some time later the humus can be removed from the side door in the lower compartment. It is very easy to use,

Summary benefit statement:		
Aerobin is easy to use to contain and dispose of household organic and green waste materials. Patented technology provides better aeration of decomposing organic material – which means less greenhouse gas produced during composting. Encourages constant usage by householders, resulting in less organic waste getting into the municipally-collected waste stream logistics chain, and more carbon-carrying material getting back into the earth, instead of the air.		
Benefit	Which means...	Further Impacts
Easy to use - so people tend to use it more	Less organic waste going to landfill (33-50% less)	Less trips to dispose of collected material
Less trips to dispose of collected material	Less fuel used	Less exhaust emissions
Less time for each collection round	Fewer trucks/drivers required, lower cost. Less diversion of difficult putrefying waste	
Less exhaust emissions	Less greenhouse gas generated by collection trucks and transfer transport	Less greenhouse damage to atmosphere caused by garbage collection and transfer process
Less time for each collection round	Lower costs for waste disposal operators	Potential cost savings for municipalities and ratepayers
Less organic waste going to landfill (33-50% less)	Bin collection frequency might be reduced	Less trucks, drivers, fuel, emissions, costs... see above
Better aeration of decomposing material	Composting stays much more aerobic	Less chance of becoming anaerobic which means less chance of generating methane and nitrous oxide
Less chance of generating methane and nitrous oxide	Less damage to the atmosphere	Reduced contribution to climate change effects
Compost generated can be recycled into the garden	Carbon is recycled, not emitted into the atmosphere	Carbon used beneficially to augment organic growth, not wasted
	Compost contains humus which retains water in the soil	Well-composted gardens use less water and grow better plants, trees, flowers and grass.

with a large lid on top, and no turning is required.

Benefits:

- Onsite Containment
- Works fast, effectively and hygienically
- Works in cool and warm climates year round
- Easy to access to fill and empty
- Greenhouse friendly – lower level of gas emissions
- Kills weeds and seeds and pathogens
- Minimal odour, with leachate containment
- Vermin and pet resistant

Waste management programs that require large quantities of putrefying waste to be processed, diverted from landfill then utilised on a grand scale require major infrastructure, capital and planning. The Aerobin solution begins with personal responsibility and on-site containment in an efficient, hygienic and cost effective methodology. It is appropriate now for all those responsible for both environmental management and waste management practices to consider the Aerobin alternative.

For further information call 1800 615 445 or email [info@aerobin.com.au](mailto:info@aerobin.com.au)



## ROTA-LOO

The Original Australian Composting Toilet

**NO WATER, NO SMELL, NO WORRIES**

Install a Rota-Loo Composting Toilet to assist the environment & save water!

**IDEAL FOR PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES**

- combining our Maxi 2000 Rota-Loo & Soltran Building
  - standard & disabled facilities
  - Waterless urinals
- Approved in every state
- Easy to install
- Easy to maintain
- Waterless
- Odourless
- Built for Australian conditions
- Converts fresh waste into organic humus






**Environment Equipment**  
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 Email: [enquiry@rotaloo.com](mailto:enquiry@rotaloo.com)  
 Website: [www.rotaloo.com](http://www.rotaloo.com)

## We Deliver Quality Environmental Management

For over 20 years, Stephenson Environmental Management Australia have been providing industries, local, state and federal government utilities with quality environmental management solutions. We offer independent advice to our clients in the monitoring, analysis and control, as well as specialist advice, for:

- Emissions to atmosphere - stack (NPI & LBL), ambient, air toxics and odour (AS4323.3) and field olfactometry
- NATA accredited
- OH&S contaminants
- Indoor air quality
- Industrial wastewater monitoring
- Industrial and environmental noise
- EIA, EIS, EMS and environmental audits



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