

# **BOARD NEWS**

*July 2012*

*Edition 4*

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Dear Members

Welcome to the Fourth edition of **BOARD NEWS**, an Environmental Health Australia (EHA) South Australia (SA) Inc. initiative aimed to keep members informed.

This is our first edition of Board News for 2012. While we aim to keep you up to date through other means such as SIGs and EHNews, but it is timely we provide you with this edition.

Since our last edition of **BOARD NEWS** a lot has happened on the National front. Whilst we have waited for National office to up date you, it is now time for South Australia Board to up date you on the work we have been doing behind the scenes.

As you now know the Victorian Division of EHA voted to pull away from National earlier this year. While we understand Victoria's reasoning it is very sad to see the fraction and the detrimental effect it has on the profession on a National level.

The South Australian Board have analysed our current situation. We have considered members feedback from the survey done in 2011, considered our budget, listened to comments by one of our major stakeholders and undertaken a SWOT analysis (Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threat) of various scenarios.

As a result, I am happy to say the SA Board submitted a paper to the National Board in June 2012, requesting a reduction in the amount of levy paid to the National Office. This was looked upon favourably by all states and National Directors who agreed the National Office is now in a much better financial position. Also, now that the National office has no more exorbitant expenses such as salaries for a Chief Executive Officer, they only require enough funds to

cover expenses plus a little extra for unforeseen expenses and national projects. The National Treasurer is to develop a National Budget and levies will be adjusted accordingly. The final amount has not yet been determined but a favourable outcome for all states is expected. Added to this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> financial quarter levy has been waived, which means the income generated from the conference now stays with EHA SA.

Further, as a result of feedback, *“if you want to make change you have to be involved to make change happen”*, Angela Sorger and myself have been nominated and accepted at the 13 July Board meeting as National Directors to EHA (National Office). Whilst previously I attended and participated in National Board meetings, South Australia had no voting rights as we had no Director representation. Angela and I aim to represent South Australia and help guide EHA at a National and state level to represent the profession and achieve positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

## On a National Level

In June this year, the National Board held a two day face to face meeting here in Adelaide. Angela, Mina and myself attended and met with EHA Directors, Executive officers from all states and state presidents. All member states were represented. Items on the agenda included:

- Budget and finances as outlined above;
- Sharing of resources and information – The meeting highlighted many of us have the same needs, things in our budgets and require the same outcomes. For instance, Mina was in desperate need of a new laptop, phone and other essential equipment to make the running of EHA (SA) efficient and effective. Queensland too was in the same position. As a result a bulk buy of these items was undertaken considerably reducing the cost to each state. The development and purchase of merchandise is another area and training packages too will be looked at closely;
- A review of the organisations Vision, mission and values statements was undertaken. Whilst these have not changed very much, they do reflect a move with the time and should be released within the next month;
- National Board office bearers terms was discussed and outlined. A document will be draw up and will come into effect at the next National AGM to be held on the Gold Coast in November at the National Conference;
- Strategic planning for the next three years. The framework will be finalised shortly with SA volunteering to develop the National Communication strategy, with reporting templates;
- The new website. EHA national has commenced a project to develop a new website which will incorporate additional functionality in response to

members' requests and suggestions. The new website will be launched in November at the national conference;

- An update of the National Conference was provided. This year's National Conference is being arranged by Queensland EHA and will be held on the Gold Coast in November. Fantastic speakers have been sourced (e.g. CEO of World Vision, Dr Karl, etc). Please look on the EHA webpage for more details or ask Mina;
- An overview of the course accreditation and the workforce project was provided;
- How to relaunch the CPD/CEHP program was discussed with further resourcing to be put in place. All states are keen for this program to be started again. Updates will be provided;
- Endorsed the appointment of a new National Executive Officer Ms Victoria Mohkami; and
- The Deed of Agreement and settlement with Victoria was voted on and passed.

The face to face was an extremely constructive meeting, with all participants walking away feeling motivated and with direction on the way forward to build a better EHA for our members.

### [On a State Level](#)

A very successful State Conference was held in March this year with a very special thank you to the Northern Alliance Councils for their collaboration in delivering such an excellent conference.

In May a Food Seminar was held at the City of Unley and was well attended and received excellent feedback from the majority that attended. Thank you to Angela Sorger, Carmel Barber and Gillian Miller for convening the seminar and bringing such relevant and interesting presentation to Environmental Health Officers and Food Technician students that attended.

I am happy to say Angela Sorger and Louise Jarvis have taken on positions and voted in as Vice Presidents of EHA (SA) Inc. Their presence and energy will provide stronger leadership and continuity for the organization. Thank you both. On that note, Dale Mazzachi from Norman Waterhouse, and Cimon Bourke (formerly Wallmans Lawyers) have been accepted onto the Board as associate members and Alex Stedman from Adelaide Hills Council was voted a Board member at the July meeting.

The Board has endorsed the Food Rating System Position paper and the Workforce research paper and these have been forwarded to our relevant

stakeholders. It is our aim to endorse the Notification vs Registration Position paper within the next few months.

### We seek assistance with:

- Convenor(s) for the 2014 National Conference. and, it is coming around again;
- Have you thought about contributing to the EHA (SA) Board? Nominations for the Board will be out in the next few months. Next year we will be having one face to face meeting in Adelaide and two teleconferences which will allow for regional members to attend and free up time away from the office. You will gain valuable experience and help build an organization that advocates for the profession.

From time to time there are things that need to be done in order to either keep our house in order and/or to move forward. Often the ones that put their hand up are the same ones and we often get burn out. Many hands make light work and your help and contribution to making them happen is valued and appreciated. If you are interested in helping out, or would like more information please contact either myself (on 0419 863 024), Angela Sorger (on 8555 7206), Louise Jarvis (on (08) 8721 2526) or Mina Labaz (on 8271 9885).

We will list areas we need assistance with in each edition of **BOARD NEWS** so stay tuned.

On as personal note, I have found 2012 a struggle with no Vice President(s) to assist and doing long commutes to work. This has meant I have been unable to do more than one Board News so far this year. For that, I apologise. Things have now settled for me (to some extent), and with two new Vice Presidents on board, it is our aim to get out Board News at least once more this year. Updates are also, provided in Presidents Report in the EHNews.

As I close, the Board would like our members for their patience and assistance. It is our intent to communicate with our members and stakeholders in a consistent manner so as to reflect the values of the Environmental Health Australia South Australia Incorporated.



**Susan Bennett**

President EHA SA Inc. on behalf of the SA Board