

BOARD NEWS

March 2011

Edition 1

Dear Members

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

In December 2010, as in previous years, a new Board of EHA South Australia Inc. was elected into office. This new elected Board is:

Susan Bennett	President
Karen Rokicinski	Vice President
Rebekah Schubert	Vice President
Courtney Bartosak	Board Member
Nicole Moore	Board Member
Helen Psarras	Board Member
Paul Kelly	Board Member
Tony Pearson	Board Member
Sally Modystach	Board Member

This new board is committed to providing a framework that meets our mission and values, meets the needs of our members and stakeholders and professionally meets the challenges of changes in the field of Environmental Health so excellence in public health is achieved both now and into the future. We aim to advocate for the Environmental Health profession and provide a platform for collaboration with our stakeholders.

2010 saw our previous President, Tony Pearson dealing with the change over of EHA to state run organisations whilst still supporting the National body of EHA. At times this has been difficult and we thank Tony for all his diligence and hard work. With that now nearly finalised, the new board has been able to concentrate on developing the frame work for EHA SA Inc. in order to build a

strong organisation that can successfully meet the challenges that face the Profession.

At the end of 2010, the Board undertook a brain storming session in which we:

- Reviewed our previously identified stakeholders;
- Identified policies and procedures that meet our vision, mission and values;
- How and what we want to achieve; and
- Board members responsibilities.

As a result, it was identified we would develop an over arching EHA SA Inc Policy (currently under construction), have procedures for communication and consultation, Financial, Professional Development, responsibilities and reporting. We also identified the need for Position Papers that reflect the thoughts and concerns of our members.

To date:

- The EHA SA Inc Policy is under development;
- We aim to survey our members and other stakeholders to determine their wants and needs from the organisation and take the results on board;
- The Board has identified areas to allow and enable better communication and consultation with:
 - Our members, by producing this news letter on a regular basis to inform you what is happening at a state and national level. Also, identifying the best avenues to seek and take on members feedback of documents produced and current and evolving issues;
 - With Special Interest Groups (SIG), Forums, special project coordinators and work groups by meeting with them four monthly to discuss what they are addressing in their SIGs/projects, review what is coming up, identify training opportunities, review formats and allow and enable constructive two way communication and consultation. Also, a Board member is allocated to each SIG/Forum as a contact and support person; and with
 - our stakeholders;
- The Board is using Business Excellence principles by developing a “*Parking Lot*” of thoughts and ideas that may be used at some stage. This will be continually review and adding to. We invite members also to add to the “*Parking Lot*”. Just email Mina with your ideas;
- A Finance committee has been established and is due to meet shortly to discuss current and future financial issues;
- Through the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG we have provided comment on the Summary Offences (Tattooing, Body Piercing and Body Modification) Amendment Bill 2011, and provided feedback to

- NSW Food Authority through the NSW Board on the use and interpretation of 'AS 4674: *Design, construction and fit-out of food premises*';
- I am thrilled to announce the Board has developed our first position paper called "*Report on the EHA (SA) Incorporated Position on a Food Safety Rating Program*". This is currently in draft form and is due to go to the Food SIG members shortly for their feedback, then to the wider membership for feedback. We will also be surveying our members for their agreement or not with the introduction of a "Scores on Doors" rating system. This draft position paper was presented at a recent stakeholders meeting and was met with extremely positive feedback. I am also thrilled to announce we have identified and are to commence work on EHA SA's second position paper, "*Food Premises Registration vs Notification*". The same procedure will be used to seek members feedback and will stay in draft form until your thoughts and concerns are taken on board.

The Board would like to assure our members we represent you, we seek your thoughts and concerns on EH issues and will endeavour to put them forward in an appropriate form.

On a National Level

1. The Service agreement is in the process of being signed off by all states;
2. Progress on Company structure is that a new company will be set up that will be a Limited by guarantee and the existing company will not be trading and will be eventually wound up. The legal aspects and a draft are due shortly and a new constitution will be developed. Representatives from each state will become Directors of the National Body.
3. Projects include:
 - a. Looking at the Certified EH Practitioner Scheme; and
 - b. EH Journal; and
 - c. The EHA Website development –Work Force Policy
 - d. to develop a Statement of Intent on the EH workforce so there is consistency across states.;
 - e. There will be no National Conference this year but there will be a symposium instead toward the end of the year and a National Conference in the first half of 2012 with the venue yet to be decided. SA has volunteered to undertake the 2014 National Conference.

State Conference 2011

EHA SA Inc. held a very successful 33rd State Conference “The Bigger Picture one state one Focus”. in Mount Gambier at the beginning of March. A very special thanks goes to:

- The four members of the conference committee – Louise Jarvis, Nicole Dodds, Catherine Sellars and Catarina Santos,
- Their respective Councils – City of Mount Gambier, Wattle Range Council, Kingston District Council, District Council of Robe, District Council of Grant, and
- Our other sponsors -
 - SA Health
 - Alano Water
 - Norman Waterhouse Lawyers
 - Pool Resources
 - Wallmans Lawyers
 - Em Solutions and those business that kindly donated goods for our delegate bags.

Some 60 delegates attended, and presentations covered a wide variety of current topics.

At the Conference dinner on Thursday 3 March **Certificates of Appreciation** were awarded to:

- ❖ **Ellena Clarke** from City of Mitcham for her contribution to the Food Special Interest Group;
- ❖ **Craig Nicks** from the City of Holdfast also for his contribution as coordinator of the Food SIG;
- ❖ **Susan Bourne** from the City of West Torrens for her contribution to the Food SIG;
- ❖ **Jamie Tann** from the District Council of Mount Baker for his contribution to the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG;
- ❖ **Adrian Hill** from the City of Holdfast for his contribution also to the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG;
- ❖ **Dane Abbott** from the City of Mitcham for his contribution to the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG as Secretary;
- ❖ **Cassie Tuck** from City of Alexandrina for her contribution to the Waste Control SIG;
- ❖ **Tim Woods** from the city of Onkaparinga for his contribution to not only Waste Control SIG, but also waste control training and education;

- ❖ **Tina Marie Aghiana** of Eastern Health Authority for her initiative and contribution to the development and instigation of the Supportive Residential Facilities SIG and as editor of EH News;
- ❖ **Karin Prince** of City of Onkaparinga for her contribution to the editing of EH News;
- ❖ **John Darzanos** from the City of Salisbury for his contribution to the Managers Forum;
- ❖ **Cathy Isbester** from Eastern Health Authority for her contribution to the development of “*Adjust and Accelerate*” Marketing Plan for Environmental Health Australia SA Branch.

These recipients often work tirelessly and sometimes silently to coordinate and communicate on behalf of the profession, and the profession appreciates their efforts.

The Environmental Health Australia Student Award went to Tamara Al'Obaidi. Her third year project was titled “*Prevalence of Illegal Drug Laboratories in Vacant Housing SA Stock*” and was funded by Flinders University and Housing SA.

This year the Board decided to award three special awards in recognition and appreciation of contribution to the profession. These awards, called the **EHA SA Inc. awards in Recognition and Appreciation of their Contribution to the Profession** were awarded to:

- ✚ **Michaela Hobby** - Even though some time has passed since she has stepped down as Vice President and from the board of EHA, its members wish to recognise and thank for Michaela for her enthusiasm and contribution to the profession through not only being a Board member, but also for her participation on the Food management Working Group responsible for AFSA, undertaking a key role in developing its Marketing Strategy; and contributing to training seminars such as the Hoarding Seminar held in about 2006;
- ✚ **Cathy Isbester** for her diligence, selflessness and tireless work for over a decade. Cathy was Chairperson of the Food Management Working Group responsible for the Food Safety Standard of Practice and AFSA, Director and National Vice President of AIEH, member Public and Environmental Health Council of SA, South Australian Branch Councilor and Vice President of AIEH; and convenor of Emergency Management Course for Environmental Health practitioners. She has generously given significant amounts of her own time over many years and has demonstrated a track record of achieving positive outcomes for both her local community and the broader environmental health profession;

✚ **Mick Livori** who has worked in the profession of Environmental Health for in excess of 20 years and has been an active voice for the South Australian Membership. He has worked tirelessly at State and National levels of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health and has contributed to the betterment of the profession. He was SA Branch President of Australian Institute of Environmental Health, a Board Member Australian Institute of Environmental Health, deputy member Public and Environmental Health Council, a member of the Food Reform Task Force and held the position of LGA nominee on the Supported Residential Facilities Advisory Committee.

The 2011 Environmental Health Awards were sponsored this year by the Local Government Association, SA Health and Norman Waterhouse. We thank them for their generosity and for making these awards possible. Without your support and partnership we would not be able to acknowledge excellence in individuals or groups in environmental health practice.

Mr Russell Peate, CEO of District Council of Grant presented the **Local Government Association's award for Outstanding Individual Participation to Environmental Health Profession** to **Tina-Marie Aghiana**. Her team nominated her for her strong passion for health promotion, her work towards the re-establishment of the EH News publication, her involvement in the 2010 SA state conference, her contribution to her organisations food safety training program, for establishing the SRF SIG and coordinating a team building activity within their workplace.

Helen Psarras presented the South Australia Health award for **Excellence in Community Focused Environmental Health Practice** which went to the **City of Salisbury** for their **Mosquito Management Plan**. The Plan addresses identifying, monitoring, treating and or eliminating mosquito breeding habitats so as to minimise and control the impact on public health, and on the environment. It considers monitoring and evaluating environmental conditions that affect mosquito breeding and adult mosquito numbers and educating and informing the community of effective mosquito control and that regular liaising with other agencies is an effective way to provide an effective regional approach to mosquito control within the adjoining areas.

Paul Kelly presented the **Norman Waterhouse Award for Excellence in Leadership** to **Karen Rokicinski** which recognizes excellence in leadership. Karen was nominated for compiling a service proposal offering Environmental Health support services to short staffed regional Councils during periods of desperate shortage, reactivating the Wastewater SIG, being a key member of past State Conference committees, organising training days, review and improvement of the software program, "Synergy," to benefited other Councils and

has been a member of Environmental Health Australia's SA Branch Council/Board since 2006.

Congratulations to all our winners.

We seek assistance with:

- A new Food SIG convener(s);
- 2012 State Conference conveners;
- If interest in being a part of the development/revamp of the EHA website; 2 members from Queensland to manage the project. They have been asked to scope the project. A National Board member will be the contact and help guide. The aim of the project is to look at current website and determine what we want it to do, what it looks like and its functionality.
- Convenor(s) for the 2014 National Conference.

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 old 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. It is also an ideal opportunity for a new graduate entering the profession to develop skills not learnt at University and or use skills you have learnt and help out. Above is a list of areas we need assistance with. If you are interested in helping out or would like more information please contact either myself (on 8405 6606), Karen Rokicinski (on 8555 7000) or Mina Labaz (on 8271 9885).

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

As I close, the Board would like our members to know 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. It is our intent to produce **BOARD NEWS** every four months so as to keep you informed with what the organisation is achieving, any special notices or information and areas we seek your assistance.

Susan Bennett

President EHA SA Inc. on behalf of the SA Board