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**Government
of South Australia**

South Australian Public Health Council

2021-22 Annual Report

DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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ISSN: 2201-4047

Date presented to Minister: 31 October 2022

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To:

Hon Chris Picton MP

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, the *Public Sector Act 2009* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Department for Health and Wellbeing by:

Professor Nicola Spurrier

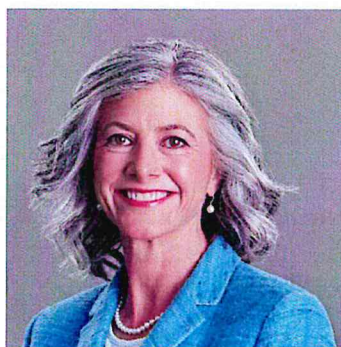
Presiding Member, South Australian Public Health Council

Date 26 / 10 / 2022

Signature



From the Presiding Member



His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed me as the Chief Public Health Officer on 29 August 2019. As the Chief Public Health Officer, I am also *ex officio* the Presiding Member of the South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC) as provided for in Section 27 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act).

The SAPHC is established under Section 26 of the Act. The SAPHC was formed on the commencement of the Act on 23 February 2012. As Presiding Member of the SAPHC, I have pleasure in presenting the eleventh SAPHC Annual Report, for 2021-22.

This reporting period has seen the Australian and South Australian borders opening and a shift from the policy objective of eradicating COVID-19 within the South Australian community, to a focus on protecting those communities and settings most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.

The SAPHC continues to provide advice on a range of statutory obligations under Section 21 of the Act, including in the 2021-22 reporting period: transition of the COVID-19 response via Major Emergency Declaration under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* to the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and the development of the 2020-22 Chief Public Health Officer's biennial Report.

I thank the Council members for their ongoing commitment to supporting and furthering the protection and promotion of health of South Australians in these challenging times.

Professor Nicola Spurrier

Presiding Member

South Australian Public Health Council

28/10/2022

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose and functions	<p>Pursuant to Section 31 of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>, the SAPHC supports the Chief Public Health Officer in meeting statutory obligations by providing assistance and advice about a broad range of public health-related matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing assistance and advice about a broad range of public health related matters • the protection and promotion of public health • the development of public health plans • the promotion of public health research <p>strategies to ensure a sufficiently trained and skilled workforce are in place.</p>
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Our organisational structure

The SAPHC consists of the Chief Public Health Officer *ex officio* (who will be the presiding member); and

- *9 other members appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister, of whom-*
 - *2 must have experience in local government selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by the LGA; and*
 - *1 must have qualifications in public health and experience in the administration of public health at the local government level selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Incorporated; and*
 - *2 must be persons nominated by the Minister who have qualifications in public health; and*
 - *1 must have experience in the administration of environment protection laws or strategies or in environmental management, selected by the Minister from a panel of 5 nominated by the Presiding Member of the Board of the Environment Protection Authority; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in the field of health promotion; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in the prevention and control of communicable diseases; and*
 - *1 must be a person nominated by the Minister who has experience in non-government community sector activities relevant to public health.*

Name	Position	Term
SPURRIER, Nicola Jane	Presiding Member appointed under 20(1)(a) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	29/08/2022 – 28/08/2022
DONOVAN, Helen	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(i) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	25/11/2021 – 24/12/2024
FERGUSON, Ann Shirley	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(i) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	24/09/2020 - 05/02/2023
MOORE, Nicole Kathryn	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(ii) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	23/04/2020 - 05/02/2023
MARSHALL, Helen Siobhan	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(iii) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	25/11/2021 - 24/12/2024
McCONNELL, Matthew James	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(iii) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	06/02/2020 - 05/02/2023
PRUSZINSKI, Andrew Walter	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(iv) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	06/02/2020 - 05/02/2023
CLINCH, Nicole	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(v) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	25/11/2021 - 24/12/2024
RYDER, Courtney	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(vi) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	25/11/2021 - 24/12/2024
COX, David Nicholas	Member appointed under 27(1)(b)(vii) of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	06/02/2020 - 05/02/2023

Changes to the agency

On 16 August 2021, the following members appointments expired: Imelda Lynch, Gary Mavrinac and Adriana Milazzo. Each of these members brought significant expertise and contributions to the SAPHC over the term of their appointments and are thanked for their service.

On 25 November 2021, Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appointed the following members under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* until 24 December 2024: Helen Donovan, Nicole Clinch and Courtney Cie Ryder, along with Helen Siobhan Marshall, who is serving a further term.

There is currently no requirement within the Act for the SAPHC membership to include members who identify and Aboriginal Torres Strait islander. However, two recently appointed members, who were appointed for their significant Public Health expertise, also identify as Aboriginal, and their expertise within Aboriginal Public Health or Health Promotion has brought significant depth to the deliberations of the SAPHC.

Our Minister



Hon Chris Picton MP is the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in South Australia.

The Minister oversees health, wellbeing, mental health, ageing well, substance abuse and suicide prevention.

Pursuant to Division 2, Section 20 of the Act, the appointment to the position of Chief Public Health Officer is made by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Members of the SAPHC are appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing as outlined in Section 27 of the Act.

Legislation administered by the South Australian Public Health Council

The South Australian Public Health Council is established under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011. The Act is administered by the Department for Health and Wellbeing and Local Government.

The agency's performance

Performance and objectives at a glance

The key objective of the SAPHC is to assist and advise the Chief Public Health Officer in relation to:

- the protection and promotion of public health
- the development and maintenance of a system of strategic planning for public health at the local, regional and state-wide levels.
- the development of health plans
- strategies to ensure that a sufficiently trained and skilled workforce is in place for the purposes of the Act
- programs to promote public health research in the State
- the preparation of the biennial Chief Public Health Officer's Report
- the setting of standards and qualifications for authorised officers
- any other functions assigned to the SAPHC by the Minister or the Chief Public Health Officer.

SAPHC Objectives	Indicators	Performance
To assist and advise the Chief Public Health Officer in relation to (vi) the preparation of the biennial report under Division 2 of the Act.	Provision of guidance and advice on the development of the Chief Public Health Officer's biennial Report, meeting the requirement of Section 23 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011.	The SAPHC has provided advice in the development of objectives, reporting framework, data, data sovereignty, and Governance for the biennial Chief Public Health Officers Report 2020-22.
Promote public health within the state by raising awareness through public health programs and social media.	<p><i>The Minister for Health – Excellence in Public Health Awards</i> - Local councils nominate initiatives in two categories (regional and metropolitan) that result in positive public health outcomes for the community.</p> <p>SAPHC members are included in the judging panel.</p>	<p>Local council award winners were presented at the October 2021 Awards ceremony.</p> <p>Award winners can be found here</p> <p>Local council award winners use the prize to further progress public health initiatives in their local council.</p> <p>In the 2021-22 Reporting period, SAPHC undertook to monitor engagement and Council involvement for the 2022 Award round, and consider options for review of the Award categories and criteria.</p>
Assist in meeting statutory obligations under the Act by providing advice to the Chief Public Health Officer in order to respond to requests relating to public health matters.	Provision of advice on the transition of the COVID-19 response via Major Emergency Declaration under the Emergency Management Act 2004 to the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 related to settings and populations vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.	<p>SAPHC considered proposed COVID-19 measures and mechanisms under the South Australian Public Health Act, to enable continued public health interventions within settings and populations most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Following passage of the South Australian Public Health (COVID-19) Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill), five directions made under the Emergency Management Act, 2004 were transitioned, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Healthcare Setting Workers Vaccination No 7) Direction 2021 -Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 49) (COVID-19) Direction 2022 -Emergency Management (In-home and Community Aged Care and Disability Workers Vaccination No 4) (COVID-19) Direction 2022

Assist in meeting statutory obligations under the Act, specifically Division 3 – Reviews and Appeals	A person who has been issued with a notice by a relevant authority under Section 92(1)(a) of the Act, to secure compliance with the General Duty under Section 56 of the Act, may apply for a review of the notice issued.	Pursuant to Section 95(3) of the Act, the Public Health Review Panel and is constituted of the Chief Public Health Officer (who will be the Presiding Member) and two members of the SAPHC selected by the Chief Public Health Officer. During 2021-22, no applications for a review to the Public Health Review Panel pursuant to Section 95 of the Act were received.
Programs to promote public health research in the State	Advice and Guidance to increase public health research.	The Hospital Research Foundation has allocated up to six PhD scholarships to support Health Regulation and Protection in furthering research on matters significant to public health.

Agency response to COVID-19

Over the 2021-22 reporting period, SAPHC was routinely briefed by the Chief Public Health Officer on matters related to the public health response to COVID-19. Most significantly (and as referenced above) SAPHC were consulted on the mechanisms for COVID-19 response to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in high-risk settings under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* following the cessation of the major emergency declaration made under the *Emergency Management Act, 2004*.

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

The objectives of the South Australian Public Health Council (SAPHC) are set out in the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.

These objectives align with the following whole of government SA Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25 goals as follows:

SA Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 Goals	South Australian Public Health Council functions
Goal 1: Improve Community Trust and experience in the health system	SAPHC supports the development and maintenance of a system of strategic planning for public health at the local, regional and state-wide levels, supporting the identification of public health risks and planning at a state-wide and local level, including community consultation requirements.
Goal 2: Reduce the incidence of preventable illness, injury and disability	SAPHC further support the preparation of the five yearly South Australian Public Health Plan, and the biennial Chief Public Health Officer's Report; important public accountability mechanisms which provide data and analysis on public health trends, and action to be taken supporting the reduction in the incidence of preventable illness, injury, and disability.
Goal 3: Improve individual and community capability in managing their health and wellbeing.	The cascade planning and reporting approach, as set out under the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i> , provides the mechanisms for the identification of Public Health matters at both

Goal 4: Improve the value and equity of health outcomes of the population by reducing inefficiencies and commissioning for health needs.	<p>State-wide and a local government level. SAPHC also provides advice on specific public health risks and interventions as relevant.</p> <p>At the core of public health measures is the principal of equity of health outcomes and a determinant approach to health and wellbeing. SAPHC provides advice on a range of Public Health matters, particularly the preparation of the South Australian Public Health Plan and the biennial Chief Public Health Officer's Report, to track key South Australian population health trends and interventions, with a focus on equity of health outcomes.</p>
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Agency specific objectives

South Australian State Public Health Plan 2019-2024 Priorities	Alignment of SAPHC Objectives and activities
<p>Promote: Build stronger communities and healthier environments</p> <p>Protect: Protect against public and environmental health risks and respond to climate change</p> <p>Prevent: Prevent chronic disease, communicable disease and injury</p> <p>Progress: Strengthen the systems that support public health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>, sets out the Objects and Principles within which the Act is to be implemented. Both the development of the South Australian Public Health Plan and the considerations of the South Australian Public Health Council, operate in accordance with the objects and principals of the Act as the guiding principles.</p> <p>The SAPHC provides advice on the development of the South Australian Public Health Plan, in alignment with both the principles of the Act and the Councils objectives.</p> <p>SAPHC's broader considerations align with the South Australian State Public Health Plan Priorities, as per the objects of the Act that SAPHC operates within. In particular, during the course of the reporting period, and notwithstanding that the management of COVID-19 has continued to be a significant public health focus of SAPHC and the Chief Public Health Officer, SAPHC have contributed to the State Plan Priorities as follows:</p> <p>Promote: Contributing to the promotion of public health within the state through the Ministers Awards in Excellence in Public Health. SAPHC members contribute their Public Health knowledge and expertise through the judging panel for the Awards, which acknowledges and excellent public health practice and programs in Local Government.</p> <p>Prevent: Providing advice on communities and settings vulnerable to the impact of public health risks, including COVID-19. Assisting in the identification of relevant data sets and identifying inequity in health outcomes.</p> <p>Progress: Providing advice on data and surveillance systems (including data sovereignty) and research to inform public health planning and action.</p> <p>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on public health action and information to inform best practice.</p>

Corporate performance

Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Any members on the Council who are employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council, participate in the Department's employment opportunity programs.	The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
Any members on the Council who are employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council, participate in the Department's performance management and development system.	The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
Any members on the Council who are employed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and Department staff who support the Council, participate in the Department's work, health, safety and return to work programs as appropriate.	The Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual Report on the SA Health website highlights key programs available to staff. Refer to www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Workplace injury claims <i>(data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data – see links below)</i>	Current year 2021-22	Past year 2020-21	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fatalities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seriously injured workers*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

Work health and safety regulations <i>(data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data – see links below)</i>	Current year 2021-22	Past year 2020-21	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Return to work costs** <i>(data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data – see links below)</i>	Current year 2021-22	Past year 2020-21	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Income support payments – gross (\$)	N/A	N/A	N/A

**before third party recovery

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2021-20 plus previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/department-for-health-and-wellbeing>

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES 2 level	1

This Executive employment data is captured in the data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2020-21.

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2021-20 plus previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/department-for-health-and-wellbeing>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

Nil to Report – the South Australian Public Health Council is unincorporated. Refer to the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2021-22.

Consultants disclosure

Data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data – see links below.

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	Nil to Report	Nil to Report

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil to Report	Nil to Report	Nil to Report
	Total	Nil to Report

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2020-21 plus previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/departement-for-health-and-wellbeing>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

Data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data – see links below.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined	Nil to Report	Nil to Report

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil to Report	Nil to Report	Nil to Report
	Total	Nil to Report

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2020-21 plus previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/department-for-health-and-wellbeing>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Note - Data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
Nil to Report	Nil to Report

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Nil to Report

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing Annual report 2020-21 plus previous years is available at:

<https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/department-for-health-and-wellbeing>

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil to Report

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/department-for-health-and-wellbeing>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	<p>Part 3–Administration</p> <p>Division 3–South Australian Public Health Council</p> <p>35-Annual Report</p> <p>SAPHC must, on or before 31 October in each year, provide to the Minister a report on its activities for the financial year ending the preceding 30 June (this report).</p>
<i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>	<p>Part 3-Administration</p> <p>Division 2 – Chief Public Health Officer</p> <p>23 – Biennial reporting by the Chief Public Health Officer</p> <p>(1) The Chief Public Health Officer is required to prepare a written report every 2 years about-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Public health trends, activities and indicators in South Australia; and (b) The implementation of the of the State Public Health Plan; and (c) The administration of the Act. <p>Under Section 31(a)(vi), the South Australian Public Health Council is responsible for assisting and advising the Chief Public Health Officer on the preparation of the biennial report under Division 2.</p> <p>Details of this Report can be found under South Australian Public Health Council Performance heading of this Annual report.</p>

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Not Applicable

Public complaints

Note - Data for SAPHC is included in the Department for Health and Wellbeing Annual report data.

Number of public complaints reported

Nil to Report

Data for the Department of Health and Wellbeing can be found at:

: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/departement-for-health-and-wellbeing>

Service Improvements

Nil to Report

Compliance Statement

South Australian Public Health Council is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	N/A
South Australian Public Health Council has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency's related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	N/A

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2021-22

The South Australian Public Health Council is unincorporated and therefore does not provide financial statements.

