

LHAAC will advance a risk based sampling scheme to ensure food safety and quality, and will have strong corporate governance, leadership and effective partnerships, and will maintain a sustainable and cost effective service for all clients.

Issued November 2018

Contract for Analytical Services

The current contract for the Provision of Analytical Services to LHAAC has just passed the first year mark. The contract, which has Agrifood Technology and Analytical Reference Laboratory (ARL WA) as the two appointed panel contractors, is for three years (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020) with two one-year extension options.

Local Governments have embraced the additional forms of sampling offered by LHAAC (including asbestos; chemicals in air, soil and water; heavy metals; and additional forms of water testing) in the first full year of operation and given positive support to the two-panel arrangement.

The User Survey conducted by LHAAC at the end of 2017/18 gave positive support to the panel arrangement and the increased forms of sampling. Coordinated Sampling Projects (CSPs) were also strongly supported.

CSP for 2018/2019

The first CSP for 2018/19 should be released by early November and it will be LHAAC's first microbial CSP, analysing sushi and rice paper roll products.



Expenditure to Date Summaries

LHAAC start to issue Expenditure to Date Summaries in November and will provide LGAs with a summary of spending to 31 October 2018. The summaries will continue monthly through to June 2019 and will assist LGAs in tracking expenditure on sampling.

Annual Report for 2017/2018



The 2017/18 Annual Report is now completed and uploaded to the LHAAC Website. Please go to:

<http://www.lhaac.org.au/>

Then head to the Resources section.

A Look to the Future

LHAAC are about to commence a Strategic Review of their operations and future direction. Work will commence with the appointed consultant in November 2018. The process will include some surveys of stakeholders and talking to all members of the Committee, key Local Government users, members of the Department of Health and other current or potential partners for LHAAC in the public health arena. If you would like to offer input please respond to the survey or contact LHAAC Coordinator, Trevor Chapman.

Completed CSPs



LHAAC have now completed 23 CSPs. I am pleased to report that, at the time of writing, CSP 1 to 21 are available on the LHAAC website. CSP 22 and 23 will follow very soon as the final touches are added to the reports. Please view the reports on the LHAAC site.

LHAAC Membership



Rob Boardman (left) and Phill Oorjitham (right)

LHAAC said goodbye to two long-standing members in June this year. Rob Boardman and Phill Oorjitham both attended their last meeting of LHAAC in June, but not before a small farewell lunch was organised in April. Rob retired from Local Government the previous year and was given special permission to stay on LHAAC to complete his term to April 2018.

Rob served on LHAAC for 21 years including six as Chairman. Phill's term also expired in April. Phill served LHAAC for 8.5 years over two terms. Rob and Phill agreed to stay on for the permitted three months when no replacement member is appointed.

LHAAC also lost Colin Dent through retirement in June 2017. Colin served on LHAAC for eight years as Non-Metropolitan member (Shire of Capel) and was a very committed member who rarely missed a meeting in Perth.

All three will be missed by LHAAC, and the industry in general, and all three are sincerely thanked for their commitment.

LHAAC Membership (cont.)

Welcome – New Members

LHAAC were fortunate to appoint three very capable replacements in the form of Freya Ayliffe (Town of Cottesloe), Kim Frost (City of Mandurah) and Sarah Upton (City of Bunbury) who have all helped to substantially lower the average age of members and lift the energy and decibel levels at LHAAC meetings!! Welcome to Freya, Kim and Sarah.



Freya Ayliffe



Kim Frost



Sarah Upton

LHAAC Membership (cont.)



Emily Dunn

Most recently, LHAAC received Ministerial confirmation of the appointment of Emily Dunn (City of Armadale) who fills a long-term vacancy for a Metropolitan member. A warm welcome Emily.

Welcome – New Chairman



David Wilson

David Wilson (City of Joondalup) was nominated as the incoming LHAAC Chair at the June 2018 meeting of LHAAC, which was endorsed by the Minister for Health in August 2018. David first joined LHAAC in January 2011 representing metropolitan LGAs.

Welcome to the new role David.

Research Assistant



Hannah Robinson

LHAAC are pleased to report the appointment of ECU Masters student Hannah Robinson as a Research Assistant one day per week on a six months contract.

Hannah is known to many in the Local Government EH field having served Professional Placement spells at Town of Victoria Park and City of Cockburn and worked as an EHO and Compliance Officer with the City of Canning. Hannah currently works part time with Food Technology Services as an EHO and through that role also works with many LGAs in WA.

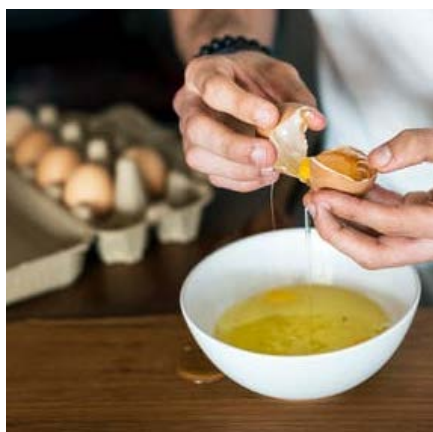
Hannah will assist in the reporting of CSPs, analyzing the results of CSPs, identify future CSP projects, identify trends and patterns in historical data and - time permitting – assist with the records management future of LHAAC.

We plan on reviewing our records management system and reducing our level of on-site paper records.

Research Assistant (cont.)

This appointment is another example of the very positive working arrangement LHAAC enjoys with ECU. Several Masters and PhD students are showing interest in the work LHAAC undertakes and the historical data we possess.

Salmonella Rates



Salmonella infection rates have been increasing significantly throughout Australia since 2000 (Ford et al., 2016). *Salmonella* outbreaks are often attributed to eggs and poultry products (Ford et al., 2016).

During the fourth quarter of 2017, OzFoodNet (2017) identified that salmonellosis notifications in WA were up 50%, compared to data from the applicable 5-year fourth quarter means. Several salmonellosis outbreaks were associated with the consumption of egg dishes. It is important that vigilance is taken when assessing food premises handling and preparing raw egg products.

Salmonella Rates (cont.)

References/ Read more

- Food Authority. (2016). Food safety guidelines for the preparation of raw egg products. Retrieved from www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/
- Ford, L., Glass, K., Veitch, M., Wardell, R., Polkinghorne, B., Dobbins, T., . . . Kirk, M. (2016). Increasing incidence of Salmonella in Australia, 2000-2013. *Plos One*, 11(10), 0163989.
- OzFoodNet. (2017). Foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations in Western Australia, fourth quarter 2017. Retrieved from <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au>

Reminders

Discretionary Sampling

LHAAC would like to thank all LGAs for their tremendous support of Coordinated Sampling Projects (CSPs). LGAs have really embraced the CSPs and are very supportive of them.

LHAAC do still encourage the use of random or discretionary sampling of food premises too – just to keep manufacturers and distributors on their toes.

And don't forget the additional forms of sampling now undertaken by both our analysts.

Bright Ideas!

Speaking of CSPs, LHAAC welcomes suggestions from Local Government EHOs. We certainly do not have the monopoly on good ideas in this regard and would greatly appreciate suggestions from you.

Contact LHAAC



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