



Background

The LHAAC is a WA State Government entity, established under Part VIII A, s.247C of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* (the Act) for the purpose of operating and facilitating a Sampling Scheme that enables WA Local Governments to access high quality analytical services for the purpose of assessing and managing health risks to your communities from food, water, air and environment. Some examples of what other Local Governments regularly sample are:

- Building materials or soils for presence of asbestos;
- Monitoring food safety and quality, such as microbial, chemical or other contamination, nutritional characteristics or health claims; and
- Monitoring potable, recreational and wastewater for safety and quality, such as microbial, chemical or other contamination and fit-for-purpose assessments.

As long as the Analysts can perform the analysis, almost any substance can be sampled and submitted for testing, if it has the potential to impact human health.

Benefits

The LHAAC also provides free professional development opportunities for Environmental Health Officers or others who are actively taking samples or assessing health risks. We run workshops and webinars to assist professionals in improving sampling technique, health risk assessments, interpreting sample reports and other relevant information as required.

Local Governments are able to participate in Coordinated Sampling Projects and Advanced Research Projects to collect data for the purposes of developing health related policies, informing decision-making and performing their duty of care to monitor and maintain the health and wellbeing of local communities.

The analysis of these substances that can cause potential health impacts to people can assist local, state and federal Government agencies in collating data to

- Ensure the safety of various products and substances;
- Ensure compliance with set standards; and
- Respond to complaints by members of the public and industry.

The three LHAAC appointed Analysts are: Agrifood Technology, ChemCentre and Eurofins ARL. All laboratories are based in Perth but have national and international links to other laboratories to provide timely and accredited analyses. The LHAAC operates contracts with these appointed Analysts to fix fees at discounted rates for Local Governments to access through the LHAAC Sampling Scheme.

The current Analyst contracts are in place until 31 July 2025; with a new tender being finalised before this time.

Sampling Scheme Fees

All Local Governments in WA pay the LHAAC Annual Fee to access these analytical services regardless of whether the service was utilized during the year.

The LHAAC Sampling Scheme is a collaborative model where the Local Government funds are collectively used to ease the financial burden for any Local Government that undertakes sampling and analysis for health-related purposes.

The sampling and analysis needs of Local Governments changes from year to year, so the Sampling Scheme allows the flexibility to pay a standard annual fee based on each Local Government's human population yet potentially access additional sampling funding at no extra cost.

Fee Calculations

Local Governments with a human population less than 1,000 people is categorized as Minimum Assessment 1. Local Governments with a human population of 1,001-2,000 people is categorized as Minimum Assessment 2. Both have set annual fees which are calculated to be the minimum payable contributions to access the Scheme. All other Local Governments have their payable contribution calculated according to human population which are considerably larger.

Local Governments can access a minimum of 60% of their paid annual fee, with the potential to access additional credits up to \$2,000 at no extra cost. To access additional credits, Local Governments will be required to apply for an Overspend Request and provide a brief rationale to support.

Some Local Governments would not be able to fund the analysis cost by themselves or be able to determine the most suitable Analyst in a timely manner, particularly for urgent health-related investigations. As all Local Governments can be impacted by environmental health risks, having the ability to submit samples and receive an accredited laboratory's report in decision making or resolving the issue is a significant advantage for the Local Government.

Contact the LHAAC Coordinator, Ryan Janes to discuss your sampling needs and questions.

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