



# LHAAC

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ANALYTICAL COMMITTEE

## Newsletter 2024/2025

### Issued May 2025



LHAAC provides a risk-based sampling scheme to promote, protect and enhance public and environmental health practice in WA through facilitation of high-quality analytical testing and monitoring of potential health risks.

- LHAAC Committee Member Recruitment
- New LHAAC Staff Member
- Coordinated Sampling Projects (CSPs)
- LHAAC Sampling FEMS Group Meeting (27<sup>th</sup> Feb)
- Training & Development
- EHA WA Conference 2025

## LHAAC Committee Member Recruitment

The Committee is formed of elected members and officers of Local Governments in WA (typically EHOs and CEOs). LHAAC has a full Committee of ten members (7 Metropolitan and 3 Non-Metro) serving terms of three years at which point they can nominate to be reappointed by the Minister for Health.



A recruitment process was held to fill two vacancies within the committee which is now complete. We would like to welcome Nathan Russell (City of Swan) and Eduardo Perotti (City of South Perth) to the Committee.

(On the left) LHAAC with some of the committee members attending the EHA WA Conference 2025.

## Current Committee members

Name	Membership
Ryan Quinn (Chairperson)	Metropolitan LGA
Pres. Paige McNeil	Metropolitan LGA
Eduardo Perotti	Metropolitan LGA
Lauren McLeod	Metropolitan LGA
Sara Saberi	Metropolitan LGA
Nathan Russell	Metropolitan LGA
Cr. Elizabeth Re	Metropolitan LGA
Sarah Upton	Non-Metropolitan LGA
Cr. Chris Poulton	Non-Metropolitan LGA
Andrew Campbell	Non-Metropolitan LGA



## **New LHAAC Staff Member**

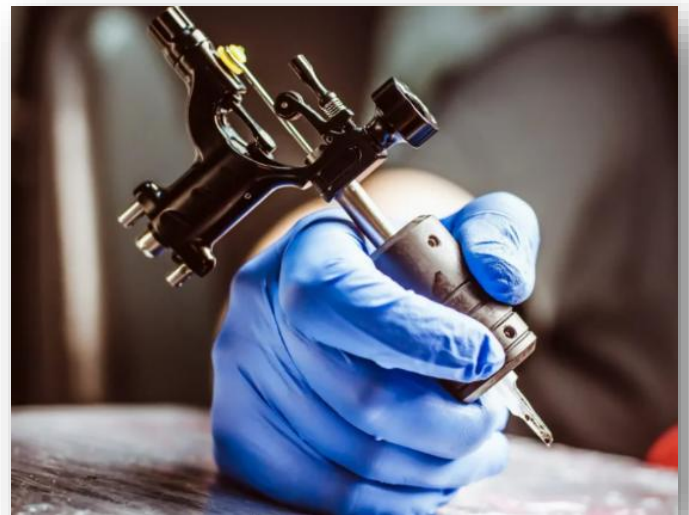
LHAAC has also appointed a new project lead - Ritu Sherpa. In September 2024, Ritu made the move from Northern Ireland (NI) to Western Australia. Prior to this, Ritu worked as a policy officer at the UK Food Standards Agency working with local authorities and third-party assurance schemes.

## **Coordinated Sampling Projects (CSPs)**

Here are some of our recent CSPs that we have been working on. If you would like to get involved or find out more information on the projects, please email us at [LHAAC@ecu.edu.au](mailto:LHAAC@ecu.edu.au) or send us your questions through the contact form available on the [LHAAC website](#).

### **CSP 39 – Microbial Detections at Skin Penetration Businesses**

The CSP 39 examined the microbial safety of surfaces and appliances in direct contact with clients at businesses that conduct skin penetration procedures. Overall, the prevalence of mould, yeast, CP Staph and Pseudomonas in skin penetration business appliances is low, however, foot spas were found to be more likely than other items or surfaces to have microbial detection results above the simplified thresholds (81%) and therefore had a higher risk of health impacts to clients.



For more information on this CSP, please click [here](#).

### **CSP 40 – Trans Fats**

In 2023, Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) published a public consultation outlining three policy options for improving the composition of the food supply in relation to trans fats. FSANZ are currently in the process of drafting the survey and risk assessment report which will

then be presented to FRSC. 10 WA Local Governments participated in this CSP by sampling a broad range of food products to be analysed for all fats, e.g. saturated, monounsaturated, polyunsaturated, trans, etc. Particular analysis was required to determine the ratio of naturally occurring ruminant trans fats vs hydrogenated trans fats. The data from this CSP showed that majority of the results do not indicate unexpected levels of trans fats in the broad range of food sampled by EHOs. The final CSP report will be available on the LHAAC website.

### **CSP 41 – Herbs and Spices**

The purpose of this CSP was to investigate the risk to consumers from microbial and heavy metal contamination of herbs and spices products available in WA. While microbial safety was the primary analytical focus of the survey methods, analyses also included selected heavy metal residues - Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead and Mercury.



FSANZ have found the data collected from this CSP to be particularly useful in further understanding the safety levels of heavy metals in these products. This data will likely be used by FSANZ to further progress their work on establishing safe limits for heavy metals in food, e.g. maximum residue limit for cinnamon spice products. Once our LHAAC researchers carry out the data analysis to produce a final report, this will be shared with all participating LGAs and published on the LHAAC website at [lhaac.org.au](http://lhaac.org.au).

### **CSP 42 – Dairy Detections**

This CSP is currently ongoing. The focus of this survey is on dairy detections in products claiming to be “dairy free”. Cows’ milk allergy is one of the most common food related allergies in infants and young children in Australian and New Zealand, however most children lose the allergic sensitivity after a few years (ASCIA, 2025). For some people though, it remains a significant allergy for the rest of their lives.



The survey will be investigating total milk proteins that may be present in the food. This CSP will close on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 to ensure that participating Local Government Authorities (LGAs) have sufficient time to submit samples to one of the two participating analysts – Agrifood Technology and Eurofins ARL. If you would like to participate in this survey, please contact [LHAAC@ecu.edu.au](mailto:LHAAC@ecu.edu.au).

### **LHAAC Food and Environmental Monitoring Sampling (FEMS) Group Meeting (27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025)**

The Food and Environmental Monitoring Sampling (FEMS) Group meeting took place in Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. A wide range of topics were discussed which covered progress of ongoing CSPs, sampling queries and planning future CSPs by brainstorming new survey proposals. DOH also provided an update on WA Health’s two planned surveys for 2025 which will be looking at a pesticide residue survey and a Cheese survey.

The next FEMS meeting will be held at City of Canning in August 2025. For any sampling and meeting updates, please sign up to our mailing list at [lhaac.org.au](http://lhaac.org.au).

### **Training & Development**

In March this year, Ryan Janes at LHAAC provided support in delivering a ‘Food Safety Workshop’ to EH students at Edith Cowan University.

### **Legal Aspects of Sampling and Analysis workshop** – As part of the EHA WA Conference 2025, Ryan



Janes and Peter Gillett (McLeods Lawyers) with guest presenter Michael Howes from City of Rockingham delivered a workshop to inform Environmental Health Officers and Technicians in navigating the legal aspects of environmental health investigations. The feedback from participating EHOs has been very positive and we are planning another similar session.



## EHA WA Conference 2025

- LHAAC was one of the sponsors for this year's EHA WA conference which took place at the Westin in Perth CBD (10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> April 2025).
- The conference provided a great opportunity for EHOs and other delegates to network and enhance their knowledge in the diverse range of issues that are dealt with by Environmental Health Practitioners.
- The conference organized a wide range of speakers who span different industries, positions, and experiences that provided deep insight and shared industry knowledge to benefit attending EHOs. This was also a great opportunity to think beyond and imagine the future landscape of environmental health through different lenses such as the impact of climate change.



## LHAAC and Contracted Analysts at the EHA Conference 2025 (Agrifood and Eurofins)



To learn more about LHAAC Sampling Scheme, please visit [lhaac.org.au](https://lhaac.org.au) or email us at [LHAAC@ecu.edu.au](mailto:LHAAC@ecu.edu.au).



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