



LHAAC

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ANALYTICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter 2025/2026

Issued May 2026



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.

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Committee Member Recruitment Update

The Committee is formed of ten elected members and officers of Local Governments in WA (typically EHOs and CEOs). LHAAC currently has nine members (7 Metropolitan and 2 Non-Metro) serving terms of three years at which point they can nominate to be reappointed by the Minister for Health.

Councillor Chris Poulton's term has now ended with the Committee, and we thank him for his time and contribution to LHAAC. We would also like to welcome Shane McRedmond from City of Rockingham and Craig Watts from Shire of Merredin, Craig's term started on the 10th of February 2026. For further details on the committee recruitment process, please check WALGA's recruitment page here - <https://walga.asn.au/who-we-are/work-at-walga>.

Current Committee members 25/26

Name	Membership	Representing
Ryan Quinn (Chairperson)	City of Gosnells	Metropolitan
Pres. Paige McNeil	Shire of Mundaring	Metropolitan
Eduardo Perotti	City of South Perth	Metropolitan
Lauren McLeod	City of Stirling	Metropolitan
Nathan Russell	City of Swan	Metropolitan
Cr. Elizabeth Re	City of Stirling	Metropolitan
Shane McRedmond	City of Rockingham (New Appointee)	Metropolitan
Sarah Upton	City of Bunbury	Non-Metropolitan
Craig Watts	Shire of Merredin (New Appointee)	Non-Metropolitan
VACANT	TBC	Non-Metropolitan

Please see [here](#) for more information on LHAAC's structure and its members.

Sampling Update

- **Food Vendor Survey** - Between December and March, a large scale food vendor project was carried out across four local government areas. We thank all the local governments that participated in this survey, the results for the larger food vendor survey will be made available online on our website.
- **Edible oil survey** - This coordinated sampling project (CSP) was scoped to examine the safety and quality of edible oil products available from production and retail food businesses in WA, such as supermarkets, grocers, primary producers, gourmet food suppliers and similar. The purpose of this CSP was to investigate the risk to consumers from primarily chemical contaminants and quality indicators of edible oils. This survey will operate until the 22nd of May 2026 and Symbio laboratory is the only analyst participating in this survey due to the wide range of chemical analytes being tested.
- **LHAAC Sample Submission eForm 2026** – If you would like to access our latest sample submission form, please visit our website at lhaac.org.au.

Training & Development

In collaboration with our contracted analysts, LHAAC facilitated multiple workshops and laboratory tours for Environmental Health Officers. The training workshops and lab tours were delivered by PathWest, ChemCentre, Eurofins ARL and Symbio laboratories. The topics covered included sampling techniques, understanding laboratory testings for asbestos and chemical residue, microbial testing as well as Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS). The feedback from the workshops and laboratory tours have been very positive and LHAAC will continue

to arrange similar training opportunities for EHOs in the future. For more information on future training and development opportunities, please follow our Eventbrite page here - [LHAAC Eventbrite](#).



- Left: Symbio laboratory workshop and tour in Canning Vale.

- Below: At the Eurofins workshop and laboratory tour, the EHOs also got to see Eurofins' Environmental Testing Mobile Laboratory which is also NATA accredited. For more information, please visit this link here - [Eurofins - Rapid Laboratory Resources](#)



Analyst Contacts: If you have any sampling and testing queries that you would like to discuss with the analysts, please see their contact details below:

Eurofins ARL	(08) 6253 4444	envirosamplewa@eurofins.com
PathWest	(08) 6457 2169 (08) 6457 2583	foods.pathwest@health.wa.gov.au waters.pathwest@health.wa.gov.au
Agrifood Technology	(08) 9418 5333	lab.wa@agrifood.com.au
ChemCentre	(08) 9422 9800	enquiries@chemcentre.wa.gov.au
Symbio Laboratories	1300 703 166	jhunt@symbiolabs.com.au

LHAAC Research Grants

An exciting initiative undertaken by LHAAC this year is the introduction of research grants for environmental health-related projects. This marks a significant step in supporting the advancement of the environmental health field by encouraging further innovation and research that showcases the vital role of environmental health officers.

Here's a snapshot of the projects that have been successful for LHAAC funding:

1. Addressing Important Gaps in Pesticide Regulation, Health Risk Communication & Surveillance in Western Australia (WA), Edith Cowan University
2. Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) testing as a novel methodology in the evaluation of hygiene procedures and microbial contamination in food premises handling ready-to-eat foods, Edith Cowan University
3. Imported food as a potential vehicle of transmission of community-associated *Clostridioides difficile* infection in Western Australia, with a focus on the hypervirulent strain ribotype 078, Edith Cowan University
4. BoorYul-Bah-Bilya: Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) Baseline Surface Water and Sediment Sampling 2025

Environmental Health Australia (EHA) WA Conference 2026

LHAAC was the keynote sponsor at this year's EHA WA conference at Parmelia Hilton.



- Ryan Janes, the LHAAC Co-ordinator also delivered a presentation on the sampling results from the pilot food vendor survey.

News spotlight

We extend our sincere thanks to the Town of Victoria Park, City of Stirling, Town of Melville, and Town of Claremont for their valuable contributions to the scoping, planning, and execution of the Food Vendor Survey. Following an initial pilot exercise, we also acknowledge the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) for generously sharing their experience and practical advice on sample collection during busy food market events.

Samples were collected at a range of events, including WA Day festivals as well as various evening and weekend markets. We are especially grateful to PathWest for their support in accommodating this survey and for accepting samples over weekends, enabling timely and appropriate testing. The survey results had detections of *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus cereus* across several food sample types which LGAs were able to

refer to in educating food vendors about food safety and improving hygiene practices. These results also enabled LGAs to apply further corrective actions in their follow ups as required.

Local Government User Survey 2026



Lastly, as we approach the end of 25/26 financial year, we would like to thank all our Environmental Health Officers for their ongoing efforts in safeguarding public health. We look forward to continuing our support for local governments with their sampling and testing requirements. To help us improve our services, we kindly request your feedback, please [click here](#) to complete our short survey.

Kind regards,

LHAAC Team

To learn more about LHAAC Sampling Scheme, please scan the QR code below or email us at

LHAAC@ecu.edu.au



LHAAC@ecu.edu.au



[YouTube Channel](#)