

Public Health Plan

City of Canada Bay Council



City of Canada Bay Council

An initiative of the Central Sydney Area Health Service Public Health Unit and the Councils of:
Ashfield, Burwood, Canterbury, City of Canada Bay, City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Strathfield, Marrickville.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework to identify and co-ordinate annual public health and environmental health activities within the City of Canada Bay Council Area.

City of Canada Bay Council website is <http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au>
The Public Health Unit Website is <http://www.cs.nsw.gov.au/pophealth/dph/public/default.htm>

PREAMBLE

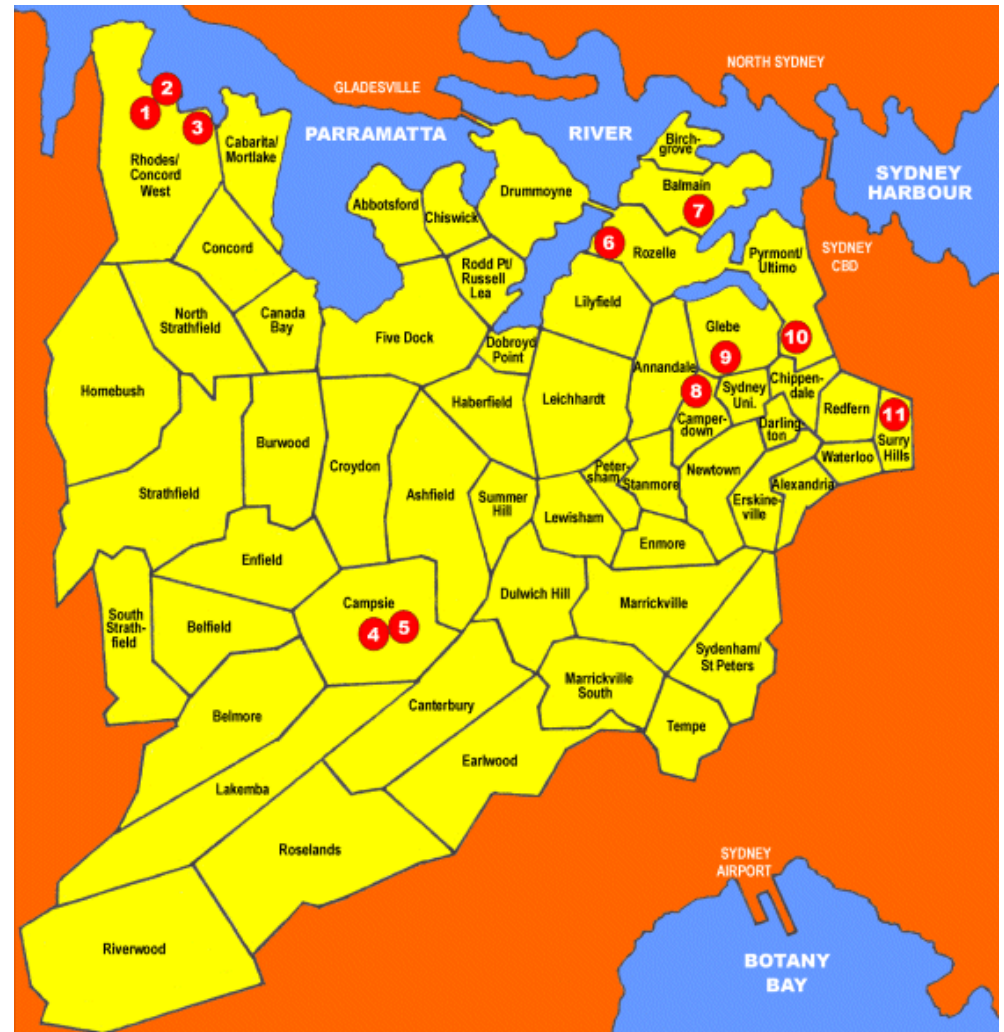
The City of Canada Bay Council is responsible for a range of regulatory public and environmental health functions as well as other services to the community and stakeholders. A key partner is the Public Health Unit. It is recognised that the Public Health Unit also provides a range of important public and environmental health services at the local level.

The Councils and Public Health Unit within the former CSAHS area have developed a close working relationship with the aim of working co-operatively on public health and environmental issues.

The public health system involves many stakeholders and local councils roles include:

- Environment protection
- Sustainable development
- Food safety
- Community services, including immunisation
- Noise control and control of other public health nuisances
- Swimming pools
- Sanitation and waste management

This is the third annual operational plan developed in consultation with Councils and identifies certain key issues that commonly involve the PHU and Councils and outlines the activities which will be undertaken for 2005. The Public Health Unit and Councils meet on a quarterly basis and have ongoing communication by email at an officer level.



Note: numerals represent Public Hospitals

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Microbial Control	To prevent outbreaks of legionella from cooling towers and other warm water systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify premises in municipal area with regulated systems and maintain a register as per Public Health Act Regulations requirements. • Conduct minimum of one inspection p.a. • Assist PHU with outbreak investigations if required. • Prepare local management plans as required by new Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional local audit programs as per Council individual policies. • New code of Practice issued in June 2004. • A joint working group will be established in 2005 to coordinate development of management plans, training and emergency preparedness. • Legislation, audit forms and circulars available at www.healthnsw.gov.au/public-health.eho./general
Swimming Pools	To minimise public health risks from public swimming pools and spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure municipal pools operate in accordance with Swimming Pool Code of Practice. • Assess applications for approval of pools and conduct compliance inspections as per legislation. • Audits of privately owned public pools as per Council policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summer 1998 there was a large outbreak of cryptosporidium in NSW, associated with public pools. There was another small cluster in CS in 2004 associated with municipal pools. On going education of pool users and operators and monitoring pool operations is important. • Audit tool available at www.healthnsw.gov.au/public-health.eho/general • PHU completed a survey of apartment blocks in 2004 and a report and recommendations have been submitted to NSW Health. •

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Tobacco Control	To ensure compliance with the Public Health Act in relation to sale of tobacco products (and reduce tobacco related illnesses).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council may initiate local programs and assist with compliance auditing or health promotion as per local policies (eg. World No Tobacco Day) • Council may give advice on smoke free legislation and enforce other requirements eg. Smoking in food premises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing legislative standards for environmental tobacco smoke. Smoke free areas in licensed are being incrementally implemented. • Some NSW Councils adopting policies to make public places smoke free and PHU can assist if local Councils considering similar initiatives. • NSW Tobacco Action Plan is under review
Food Safety	To minimise public health risks from the manufacture, preparation and sale of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect retail and food service premises (eg. Restaurants, takeaway food outlets). Min one inspection per annum. • Assess and approve applications for construction or alteration of premises. • Investigate complaints. • Approval and monitoring of temporary food premises (eg. markets, fairs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Food Authority established in 2004 and PHU Food Inspectors transferred over. The Authority is working with local government to further define roles and functions. • PHU will continue to assist by including food safety issues on the agendas and inviting the FA to local liaison meetings.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Skin Penetration	To prevent the transmission of blood borne diseases from regulated premises eg. Acupuncturists, body piercers/tattooists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a register of premises. • Assess applications to establish/modify premises. • Conduct at least one inspection p.a. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Council inspections as per local policies. • Guidelines/Audit tool available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health.eho/general • PHU conducted infection control training for Council EHO's in 2004 and will conduct another seminar in 2005. • Councils to check and register beauty practitioners who may be carrying out skin penetration activities in 2005
Funeral Industries	To prevent risks from the handling and disposal of bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve premises. • Inspections as required or requested. • LGA (Orders) Regulation Schedule 4 also has standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory details available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health.eho/general • New Anatomy/Human Tissue legislation Dec 2003 • Sec 68 Local Government Act (approval to operate a mortuary) now repealed • New guidelines document released September 2004
Water	To prevent health risks from drinking water and recreational water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for inclusion of rainwater tanks at D/A Stage . • Implement local programs for catchment management and sustainability of recreational waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Health Water Unit provides a range of advisory services and policy guidance www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health.eho/water . • BASIX introduced 2004. Working group established to prepare model policies for grey water reuse • Joint Investigations are being carried out by PHU and Councils into sediment contamination along the Parramatta River.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Contaminated Sites and Environmental Hazards	To minimise risks to human health and to manage environmental harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake assessment and approvals as per the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997. • Management of environmental contamination as per POEO Act. • Local sharps collection programs as per Council policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHU does not have a regulatory role for contaminated land but is frequently asked to provide advice on human health implications for proposals or issues. • Working group established with NSW Health to consider educational strategies for health hazards and home renovations eg asbestos and lead • Emerging issue of CCA treated pine. • PHU and Environmental Health Branch conducting blood dioxins study at Rhodes • New guidelines for management of community medical waste will be issued in 2005.
Air Quality	To participate in initiatives to improve air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of local issues as per POEO Act. • Local active transport initiatives as applicable. • SOE reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional air quality issues are managed by EPA. • NSW Health issues alerts under certain circumstances eg. Pollution after bushfires. An air quality committee has been established. • Ongoing issues with venting road tunnels. Eg M4 & 5, cross city
Noise Control	To manage public health issues relating to community noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage noise complaints and initiate action as required under POEO Act • Assess development proposals for potential noise impacts from proposed developments 	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Health risks from Premises	To manage risks from spread of communicable diseases and other health and safety issues at premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local policies for approval of brothels. • Regulate accommodation and backpacker premises. • Investigate and take action in accordance with the provisions of Local Government Act in relation to complaints about unhealthy conditions on properties. • Participate in brothels working group established by NSAHS (Sydney City) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Health and Safety Guidelines for Brothels introduced in 2001. • PHU will assist Councils as required .eg with DCP's • Bed bugs are again on the increase especially in backpackers and boarding house situations • Information on insect vectors is available from http://medent.usyd.edu.au/index.htm
Animal Management and Pests	To prevent health risks from dogs, cats and other animals and to manage issues relating to pests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of animals as per Companion Animal Act. • Local programs to control/manage rodents and other pests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Bay Council also participates in mosquito surveillance program with NSW Health. • Emerging issues of wild bird management in the community. PHU assisting Councils.
Sustainability	To provide support to programs which ensure suitable urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement local policies in accordance with the objectives of the Local Government Act • Develop a local sewage management strategy to support approvals for grey water diversion and treatment systems 	<p>Increasing trends towards self-supporting developments require careful consideration and appropriate approval processes..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to wastewater and sewage disposal http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/ehb/general/wastewater/wastewater.html • Links to rainwater tanks http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/ehb/water/rainwater.html

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Immunisation and Communicable Diseases	To reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases. Preparedness and responses for diseases notified under the Public Health Act 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regional immunisation committee. • Conduct local clinics where provided under Council policy. • Assist PHU with responses to major incidents as required. (eg food borne illness, legionella or other communicable disease incident) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Immunisation Strategy to be completed 2004. • PHU conducted primary school Meningococcal C program in 2004 • www.immunise.health.nsw.gov.au • PHU taking a lead role in development of local strategies to manage locally the threats of SARS and Avian Flu
Emergency Management	To be prepared for, and provide responses, to emergency and disaster incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain local SOPS. • Nominate a local public health controller (EHO) as per HEALTHPLAN requirement. • Participate in basic training programs. • Mass gathering approvals. • Local Committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEALTHPLAN is under review • Most Councils have now participated in training courses and this is encouraged to be ongoing with a further public health course envisaged in Sydney in 2005 • Mass gathering circular available on DLG Website. http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_home.asp
Issue	Objective	Action	Comments
Health & Wellbeing	To promote health & wellbeing within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellness Network • Media releases • Bayside Wellness Network News • Wellness Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 will be the first year that wellness week is run within the council area. It is proposed to be a annual event involving local businesses.