Environmental Health

Standing Committee

(enHealth)

of the Australian Health Protection Committee

Work Plan (2024-27)

# Version History

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Version No. | Version Date | Description |
| 1 | 3/07/2024 | Finalised version. |

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# Overview

This Work Plan has been developed to be read in conjunction with the enHealth Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and enHealth’s Terms of Reference. The Strategic Plan 2024-2027 outlines enHealth’s key strategic direction, whereas the Terms of Reference defines enHealth’s purpose, outlines the scope of work, and identifies how enHealth members will work together to achieve its objectives.

The work priorities outlined in this document assist enHealth to continue to play a key role in coordinating policy advice and the national response on environmental health issues and in developing environmental health-related national guidance and resources. By doing this, enHealth will be able to create healthier communities for all Australians.

# Key Focus Areas

As reflected in enHealth’s Strategic Plan 2024-2027, enHealth has identified the following key focus areas in order to achieve positive health outcomes:

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
2. Air Quality
3. National Approach
4. Radiation
5. Water Quality

# Work Priorities

enHealth has identified the below projects, guideline updates, and tasks as key priorities. These items set a forward work plan and will be reviewed and amended when required, particularly in light of updated or emerging priorities.

| Project/Task | Key Focus Area/s\* | Lead/s | Timeframe |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| High Priorities | | | |
| Indoor Air Quality   * Project on health aspects of the indoor Air Quality project | B, C | Commonwealth | Ongoing, 2024-2027 |
| Nationally Consistent Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety   * Finalise National Strategy for Radiation Safety * Assessment of State, Territory and Commonwealth legislation and identify opportunities for consistency * Development of a competency framework to ensure a consistent level of qualification to use radiation sources * Testing readiness and responsiveness to large scale incidents * Auditing national capabilities to respond to a national radiation emergency (facilities and people) * Reviewing existing reporting systems, including the Australian Radiation Incident Register | C, D | Commonwealth  Commonwealth  TAS, QLD  ARPANSA (QLD Support)  NT  ARPANSA | Ongoing, 2024-2027 |
| Other Projects/Tasks | | | |
| National Approach to Environmental Health   * Possible areas to consider include national compliance management, consistent data and structure of services, and environmental health workforce approach | A-E | Commonwealth | Ongoing, 2024-2027 |
| Community Engagement and Risk Communication Project   * Continued development and implementation of Risk Communication Assessment Tool * Testing workshops | C | enHealth Risk Communication Working Group (VIC) | 2024-2025 |
| Continued engagement with Expert Reference Panels and stakeholders:   * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health * Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in various exposure settings * Heat stress and building codes | A, C | All  Commonwealth  NSW | Ongoing, 2024-2027 |

# Priorities managed by Expert Reference Panels and key stakeholders

| Project/Task | Key Focus Area/s\* | Lead/s | Timeframe |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Guidelines | | | |
| Guidance updates and maintenance   * Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling * Environmental Health Risk Assessment (pending funding) * Australian Exposure Factor Guide (pending funding) * Guidance on the use of Rainwater Tanks | C, E | NHMRC/WQERP (SA)  ERPEH  ERPEH  WQERP (SA, TAS, VIC) | Ongoing, 2024-2027 |

\*Key focus areas: A = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, B = Air Quality, C = National Approach, D = Radiation, E = Water Quality

# Publications

Completed enHealth publications can be found at [Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/enhealth#publications).

Electronic copies of older publications can be requested from the enHealth Secretariat at [enHealth.Secretariat@health.gov.au](mailto:enHealth.Secretariat@health.gov.au).

# Acronyms

This document uses the following acronyms:

| Acronym | Expanded |
| --- | --- |
| ABCB | Australian Building Codes Board |
| ARPANSA | Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency |
| ASEA | Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency |
| enHealth | Environmental Health Standing Committee |
| ERPATSIEH | Expert Reference Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health |
| ERPEH | Expert Reference Panel on Environmental Health |
| NHMRC | National Health and Medical Research Council |
| RHERP | Radiation Health Expert Reference Panel |
| WQERP | Water Quality Expert Reference Panel |