

Environmental Health  
Standing Committee  
(enHealth)

of the Australian Health Protection Committee

Work Plan (2024-27)

## Version History

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

## Table of Contents

<b>Version History</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Focus Areas</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Work Priorities</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Priorities managed by Expert Reference Panels and key stakeholders</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Publications</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>5</b>

## 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:

- a. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- b. Air Quality
- c. National Approach
- d. Radiation
- e. 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
<b>High Priorities</b>			
Indoor Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project on health aspects of the indoor Air Quality project</li></ul>	B, C	Commonwealth	Ongoing, 2024-2027
Nationally Consistent Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finalise National Strategy for Radiation Safety</li><li>Assessment of State, Territory and Commonwealth legislation and identify opportunities for consistency</li><li>Development of a competency framework to ensure a consistent level of qualification to use radiation sources</li></ul>	C, D	Commonwealth  Commonwealth  TAS, QLD  ARPANSA (QLD Support)	Ongoing, 2024-2027

Project/Task	Key Focus Area/s*	Lead/s	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing readiness and responsiveness to large scale incidents</li> <li>• Auditing national capabilities to respond to a national radiation emergency (facilities and people)</li> <li>• Reviewing existing reporting systems, including the Australian Radiation Incident Register</li> </ul>		<p>NT</p> <p>ARPANSA</p>	
<b>Other Projects/Tasks</b>			
<p>National Approach to Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible areas to consider include national compliance management, consistent data and structure of services, and environmental health workforce approach</li> </ul>	A-E	Commonwealth	Ongoing, 2024-2027
<p>Community Engagement and Risk Communication Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development and implementation of Risk Communication Assessment Tool</li> <li>• Testing workshops</li> </ul>	C	enHealth Risk Communication Working Group (VIC)	2024-2025
<p>Continued engagement with Expert Reference Panels and stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health</li> <li>• Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in various exposure settings</li> <li>• Heat stress and building codes</li> </ul>	A, C	<p>All</p> <p>Commonwealth</p> <p>NSW</p>	Ongoing, 2024-2027

### Priorities managed by Expert Reference Panels and key stakeholders

Project/Task	Key Focus Area/s*	Lead/s	Timeframe
<b>Guidelines</b>			

Project/Task	Key Focus Area/s*	Lead/s	Timeframe
Guidance updates and maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling</li> <li>Environmental Health Risk Assessment (pending funding)</li> <li>Australian Exposure Factor Guide (pending funding)</li> <li>Guidance on the use of Rainwater Tanks</li> </ul>	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](#).

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