IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT 2011

BACKGROUND

On March 2013, regulation of drinking water will commence under the Safe Drinking Water Act 2011 (the Act) and Safe Drinking Regulations 2012, (the regulations).

As of this date, regulation of all drinking water other than packaged water will be transferred from the Food Act 2001 and Food Regulations 2002.

The Act is based on implementation of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

The Act will apply to schools and other education premises (e.g. preschools /kindergartens) that provide a non SA Water supply to children for drinking purposes (e.g. rainwater, bore water).

The main provisions of the Act are:

- registration of drinking water providers
- implementation of risk management plans (RMPs) as described in the ADWG including approved monitoring programs and incident notification protocols
- regular audits and inspections
- reporting of results to the Department for Health and Ageing
- provision of results to consumers.

The new legislation does not apply to domestic use of rainwater tanks or other private supplies.

The Department for Health and Ageing will take primary responsibility in administering the Act and Regulations.

Transitionary provisions in the Act require that existing drinking water providers register with the Department for Health and Ageing within 3 months.

Key dates:

- **1 March 2013**
  The Safe Drinking Water Act and Regulations commence.

- **1 June 2013**
  Final date for existing providers to register as a drinking water provider. After 1 June 2013 all new providers will need to register prior to commencing supply of drinking water.

- **1 March 2014**
  Final date for the development and implementation of a RMP for existing providers. After 1 March 2014 all new providers will need to develop a RMP prior to commencing supply of water.
• **2014/2015**
  Audits and inspections of drinking water providers commence.

  Develop and implement a RMP within 12 months.

The Act, Regulations and a range of supporting resources including drinking water provider registration forms are available from the SA Health website at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/safedrinkingwater](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/safedrinkingwater). Additional resources will be added to this site as they are developed including generic risk management plans, monitoring programs, incident protocols, reporting templates and a range of factsheets.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Hore (08) 8179 1406 [horem@ais.sa.edu.au](mailto:horem@ais.sa.edu.au) or contact the Department for Health and Ageing Water Quality Unit on (08) 8226 7100.