



Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact: (08) 9222 2000

Attention: Local Government Chief Executive Officer

Dear Sir/Madam

2021/2022 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT – OPTIONAL REPORTING

I am seeking your support of an important initiative. The reporting requirements for local government under section 22 of the *Public Health Act 2016* (PH Act) provide an opportunity for local government to work with the Department of Health (DOH) to capture a broad range of public health related actions, develop a valuable evidence base and assist with public health planning and resource allocation.

The DOH had previously requested assistance from local government to provide data using a similar reporting template. The data collected from 2019/2020 optional reporting has been analysed by the DOH and developed into 10 regional reports that align with the current health regions throughout WA. In addition to data collected from local government, additional information relevant to public health issues has been sourced from the DOH and other state government departments. The regional reports have now been published on the DOH website and local government practitioners are encouraged to download and review the appropriate regional report using the following link and selecting Public Health Act reports:

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Annual-performance-reporting-for-local-government-enforcement-agencies

All responses from the 2021/2022 optional reporting template will be collated by the DOH and made available to local governments to assist with public health planning, to promote transparency and accountability across the local government sector and to enable comparison of activity with peers. Responses will also be used by the DOH to inform the Chief Health Officer on how public health risks were identified and managed for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The future mandatory reporting framework will also be guided by the feedback received from local government from the optional reporting initiative.

While not mandatory at this stage, I strongly encourage your local government to participate by submitting a response online at <https://consultation.health.wa.gov.au/environmental-health-directorate/d09fdd70> by **30 October 2022**. A PDF copy of the reporting form is also available at that address to assist your local government with completing a response.

Authorised officers completing the online report are encouraged to obtain authorisation from the local government's Chief Executive Officer prior to submission.

Should you have any queries concerning the optional reporting, please contact the Public Health Act Legislation Team at the Environmental Health Directorate on (08) 9222 2000 or publichealthact@health.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lindsay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Michael Lindsay
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE

6 July 2022