

Public Health At Events – Things To Consider

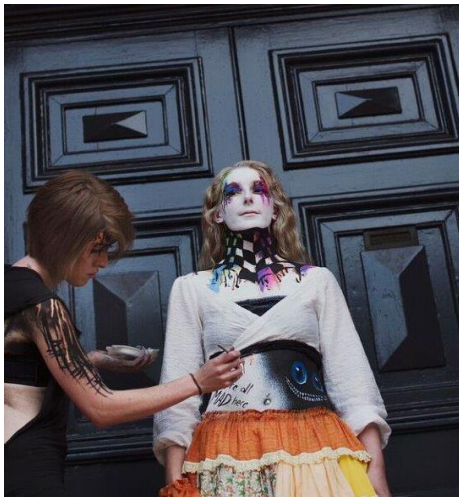
A guide for event organisers to highlight public health risks which require consideration at organised events when booking entertainment and activity vendors.

Entertainment and organised activities at events are often more than just music and food, it can vary from animal petting zoos, face painting and temporary tattoos to water play activities. These types of activities are fun but can also involve public health risks if not managed correctly.

The South Australian Public Health Act captures legislation and guidelines to promote and to provide for the protection of the health of the public of South Australia and to reduce the incidence of preventable illness, injury and disability; and for other purposes.

FACE PAINTING, MAKE UP & TEMPORARY TATTOOS

Some risks associated with these activities unless adequate hygiene practices are implemented. Face painting and beauty activities could lead to the spreading of skin infections, aggravate skin disorders and allergies.



Key things to consider

- ▲ Faces to be painted should be clean, skin intact and free from contagious infections such as conjunctivitis, lice, cold & flu and clients checked for any allergies or sensitivities
- ▲ The use of single use applicators, brushes and sponges is strongly recommended
- ▲ If using reusable brushes or stencils; they must be adequately cleaned between each client
- ▲ Water used for cleaning should be changed after each client.
- ▲ Sufficient paint should be dispensed from the main pot for each client, as continual dipping with the same brush/sponge can contaminate paint.
- ▲ The artist should have access to hand wash facilities to wash hands between each client.

HAIR ACTIVITIES

Activities surrounding hair such as braiding, colouring, or attaching feathers and beads. Use of common equipment among clients without adequate cleaning has the potential for spreading infection or infestations (eg. head lice).

Key things to consider

- ▲ The hair stylist should have access to adequate hand wash facilities to wash hands between each client.
- ▲ Equipment such as combs and hairbrushes must be adequately cleaned after each client.
- ▲ Ensure clients are free from contagious infections or infestations.

ANIMAL CONTACT

Such things as petting zoos and interactive animal displays. Zoonotic disease can spread via contaminated hands during contact with animals, their environments or their waste. Hand washing after participating in such activities is particularly important prior to eating food. See further information section.

Key things to consider

- ▲ Signage to direct visitors to hand washing stations
- ▲ Adequate hand washing facilities that are continually stocked with running water, soap and single use towel.
- ▲ Hand washing station should be accessible to children and people with disabilities.



FOOD & BEVERAGE STALLS

Food and beverage activities may be captured under the SA Food Act 2001 & Safe Drinking Water Act. A Temporary Food Event Notification Form is required to be lodged with Council if these activities are included in the event.

Please refer to the Food Safety at Events fact sheet listed in the further information section.

INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURES

Can include temporary swimming pools, spas, water slides or water play. These water features have been associated with cases and outbreaks of diseases caused by organisms such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Legionella*, *Giardia* and *Salmonella*.

Key things to consider

- ▲ Operators must ensure ongoing monitoring and maintenance of water quality and disinfection while operating.
- ▲ Periodic fresh water replacement for small activities (eg. hand play only)
- ▲ Registration Form for this activity type on Council's website.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Events often produce a substantial amount of waste. The types of waste will vary depending on the type of event, but often will include recycling (bottles, cans), organic waste (food) and general waste.

Key things to consider

- ▲ Adequate bins provided for both vendors and the public
- ▲ Consider the types of bins provided (eg. recycling bins v's general waste bins)
- ▲ Could organic (food) waste be collected for responsible disposal (eg. organisers offer a central organics bin for use by food vendors)
- ▲ Adequate risk management if a hazardous sharp is found

TOILET FACILITIES

With an increase of people in an often-condensed area, consideration must be given to the availability of facilities such as toilets.

Key things to consider

- ▲ Number of people attending the event v's public toilets available
- ▲ Are temporary toilet facilities required (eg. Porta Loos)
- ▲ Monitor facilities throughout the event (eg. cleanliness, toilet paper stock, handwashing)
- ▲ Access and facilities for all (eg. disabled access, baby changing)

TEMPORARY HAND WASH SET-UP

An example of complying with the hand wash facility requirements at temporary events is by setting up a temporary hand wash station. This set up could be shared between stalls and must have warm running water, soap

and single use towel. Ensure wastewater is disposed of responsibly (not on the ground) due to contamination.

Note: some event organisers may supply a hand wash facility however it is the responsibility of the stall operator to ensure the fit out and use meets their obligations.



FURTHER INFORMATION

- ▲ Face & Body Painting –Guidelines for painting faces & bodies https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_/Face-and-body-painting
- ▲ Animal Contact Guidelines www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- ▲ Guideline on the Public Health Standards of Practice for Hairdressing www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- ▲ The Guidelines on the Safe Practice of Skin Penetration www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- ▲ Managing health risk associated with interactive water features www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- ▲ Guidelines for the Management of Public Health & Safety at Public Events www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
- ▲ Health Information Leaflet, Mobile Food Vendors – Food Safety at Events www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au
- ▲ City of Mount Gambier Public Health and Food Safety web pages www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au
- ▲ Code of Practice for the Provision of Facilities for Sanitation & Personal Hygiene www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact Council's Environmental Health Officers with any other queries on (08) 8721 2555 or email city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

All general public health advice is a guide only, please contact Health Officers for advice relating to your activity.

