

# Town of Gawler Public Health



Council's Environmental Health Officers are involved in monitoring various aspects of the community in order to ensure public health is maintained. Regular inspections of food premises, public swimming pools, hairdressers and tattooists are undertaken.

## **Supported residential facilities**

Supported Residential Facilities are accommodation facilities that provide personal care services to more than two people. Personal care can include assistance with showering, supervising medication, assistance with feeding and other daily living needs. Many of the residents living in Supported Residential Facilities suffer from mental illness or intellectual disabilities. Council monitors and licences the facilities to ensure adequate standards of care and accommodation are met.

## **Swimming pools**

Monitoring of public pools and spas takes place to ensure correct disinfection levels are maintained and the standard of facilities comply with regulations.

## **Tattooists and skin penetration**

Tattooists, body pierces, acupuncturists and beauty therapists are inspected annually by Environmental Health Officers to ensure that safe hygienic procedures and practices are being undertaken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. If precautions are not taken, blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and various bacterial infections can be transmitted.

## **Acupuncturists**

Acupuncture is the practice of inserting sterile needles into specific parts of the body to treat disease or relieve pain. The majority of items used in acupuncture are available as pre-sterilised and single use.

# Town of Gawler Public Health

## **Beauty therapists**

Beauty Therapy procedures where skin penetration can occur include waxing, electrolysis, micro pigmentation, nail manicures and pedicures, lancing, and colonic lavage or colonic irrigation. Some of these procedures do not penetrate the skin under normal circumstances, however they do come into contact with other body substance able to transmit infection. Bleeding can occur during some of these non-skin penetrating procedures such as waxing, increasing the risk of the transmission of blood-borne disease.

The Guidelines on the Safe and hygienic practices of skin penetration 2004 are designed to assist Council in the administration of the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 and Regulations.

## **Hairdressers**

Hairdressers are inspected by Environmental Health Officers using the Guidelines on the Public Health Standards of Practice for Hairdressing 2006 based on risk assessment. The guidelines provide appropriate information on issues such as infection risk, cleaning processes, sterilisation, operator hygiene and the maintenance of cleanliness standards for a hairdressing premises.

Hairdressers participating in any form of skin penetration are required to refer to the Guidelines on the Safe and hygienic practices of skin penetration 2004.

If you are intending on establishing one of the above mentioned premises please contact Council's Environmental Health Section on (08) 8522 9235 prior to commencing business.