

# Environmental Health in Communities

## What is Environmental Health?

Environmental Health is concerned with biological, chemical, physical and social factors in the natural and built environment which can pose a risk to human health. In NSW the responsibility for different aspects of environmental health is shared between a number of state and local government authorities.

Hunter New England Health has an experienced team of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) who are responsible for monitoring and acting on a range of environmental health issues, such as drinking water, air quality, waste removal and food safety, to ensure a safe environment for the community. A focus of the Hunter New England EHOs is to empower Indigenous communities to identify and resolve environmental health issues.

## Issues that may impact on environmental health in your community:

- unsafe drinking water
- poor sanitation
- poor waste disposal
- unsafe food
- overcrowding
- animals, pests like rats, mice and insects
- air and dust problems
- unsafe built environment
- diseases from mozzies and other insects

## Poor environmental health can contribute to infections or sickness including:

- diarrhoeal diseases
- asthma, breathing difficulties caused by infection
- eye diseases
- skin infections

## EHOs can work with your community and other Government Departments to provide advice on:

- drinking water supplies
- sewerage systems
- rubbish collection and disposal
- community clean-ups
- tobacco control
- housing repairs
- hand-washing education
- domestic animal management
- pest control e.g. mozzies, rodents
- grant and funding applications
- programs - e.g. Housing for Health, Mister Germ, Dog Health

We are keen to hear from you! For assistance and to discuss these issues with Hunter New England Health, contact your nearest office and speak with an Environmental Health Officer.

## Contact Details - Hunter New England Population Health

Newcastle Office  
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**Health**  
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Local Health District