

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT 2011

Information Sheet



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The *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2011* (the Act) applies to all drinking water providers who supply water to the public, with the exception of domestic supplies and some small low risk supplies. Under the Act, drinking water providers are required to register with SA Health and implement a Risk Management Plan (RMP).

Part of the RMP includes a water quality monitoring program. **The Australian Water Quality Centre (AWQC)** will be able to provide you with the service of **Water Quality Analysis** as determined by SA Health. **AWQC** is an internationally recognised NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratory and is also a SA Health approved laboratory for water quality testing.

Requirements for Safe Drinking Water Act 2011

Under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2011*, drinking Water Providers will need to contact and register with SA Health in the first instance to determine the requirements for their individual circumstances. Existing drinking water providers are required to implement a Risk Management Plan (RMP) by 1 March 2014. After 1 March 2014 all new providers must have an RMP before commencing supply.

Requirements under the Act include:

- Registration of drinking water providers
- Implementation of a Risk Management Plan (RMP) including **water quality monitoring programs** and incident notification protocols
- Audits and inspections of drinking water providers once a year or once every two years
- Reporting of results
- Providing results to consumers on request

AWQC is able to provide sample collection and water testing services as part of these requirements



Water Quality Solutions
www.awqc.com.au

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Categories of Public Water Supplies

Generally there are three main types of supplies under the Act. Detailed information can be obtained from the SA Health website.

1. Small Public Supplies

SA Health provides standard RMPs, including water quality monitoring programs, for use with the following supplies:

- Small Rainwater supplies
[SA Health link](#)
- Rainwater Supplies in regulated premises
[SA Health link](#)
- Small Bore Water Supplies
[SA Health link](#)
- Water carting
[SA Health link](#)
- Water carting (mains water)
[SA Health link](#)

2. Moderate and larger supplies

In some cases there may be a need to develop your own custom Risk Management Plan. *The Community Water Planner* is a free online tool that can be used to generate a comprehensive plan which can then be submitted to SA Health for approval. Once this has been approved, AWQC will be able to provide you with the **Water Quality Analysis** required.

3. Small exempt rainwater supplies provided in low risk premises

These may still require water quality testing in certain circumstances. You should contact SA Health directly to determine if your supply is exempt.

[Link to SA Health small exempt supplies](#)

[Link to SA Health Exemptions Fact Sheet](#)

In all categories SA Health should be contacted directly to determine which category is relevant and what protocol for water testing is required for your particular water supply.



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The AWQC is a business unit of SA Water, a South Australian Government Enterprise

AWQC Services

Under the Act, drinking water providers must ensure their water quality testing is carried out by an approved laboratory. AWQC is an internationally recognised NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratory and is also a SA Health approved laboratory for water quality testing.

Sample Collection & Analysis

As a fully NATA accredited Laboratory (including Field Services) and with ISO9001 certification, the AWQC Laboratory is able to offer a comprehensive service including water sampling and collection, analytical testing and reporting to water industry level standards and quality. Our Field Services team is fully trained in collection processes for all types of water samples (including sterile microbiological sampling), as well as performing on-site field testing such as chlorine residuals. The Field Services team is available for sample collection at sites across the state from the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Riverland, Northern areas and east to Bordertown. For coverage areas contact our Customer Service Unit on 1300 653 366 or email awqccsu@sawater.com.au



Reporting/exceedance notification to customer

As part of its reporting processes, AWQC is able to pre-set alert parameters for water testing in-line with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG). This allows for the ability to alert you to potential water quality issues with preliminary reporting indicating analytical parameters which do not meet the ADWG 2011. The AWQC can email and text the result to a group of people to meet your specification.

This will enable you to notify SA Health with any potential water quality issues as prescribed in the Act.

How to proceed with AWQC Testing

AWQC will be able to provide you with packaged suites of testing and reporting for individual requirements or standard requirements as in the case of **small public supplies** (above).

To discuss your requirements, please contact our Customer Service Unit on telephone 1300 653 366 or email awqccsu@sawater.com.au