



# Message from the Chief Health Officer

## Progress of Stages 4 and Stage 5 Implementation of Public Health Act 2016

As you are aware the Department of Health is working to complete stage 4 implementation of the Public Health Act 2016, and progress stage 5 (environmental health regulations). COVID 19 has impacted the work program and schedule to implement the final stages of the Public Health Act 2016.

This delay means that new regulations for both stage 4 and stage 5 are not expected to commence within the next 2 years.

For local governments this means that the current Act and regulations remain in effect until stages 4 and 5 are complete.

Stage 4 was partially completed in September 2017 and includes the repeal of Part IXA of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 and the implementation of Part 10 and section 320 of the Public Health Act 2016.

Under stage 4, the following regulations are being reviewed:

- *Health (Notification of Lead Poisoning) Regulations 1995*
- *Health (Notification of Stimulant Induced Psychosis) Regulations 2010*
- *Health (Western Australian Register of Developmental Anomalies) Regulations 2010*
- *Health (Cervical Screening Register) Regulations 1991*
- *Health (Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of WA) Regulations.*

Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 has involved a review of current environmental health regulations under the Act that has included substantial community consultation since 2014.

These regulations were reviewed to determine which public health risks should continue to be regulated under the framework provided by the Public Health Act 2016, or alternatively managed in other ways such as by other legislation, guidelines or codes of practice.

Summaries of all consultations conducted for the environmental health regulations are available at [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/articles/n\\_r/regulation-review-program](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/articles/n_r/regulation-review-program)

The Department of Health is committed to working with local governments as co-regulators of our environmental health regulations, in line with the [Partners in Government Agreement 2021](#). This commitment includes supporting local governments with information in a range of formats, guidance material and relevant training throughout an appropriate transition period to ensure effective preparation for the roll-out of Stage 5.

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CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER  
Health Department of WA

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