

# CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



## SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES



### OUR SERVICES IN A NUTSHELL

The Central Karoo District Municipality is sanctioned by legislation to provide Municipal Health Services within its area of jurisdiction.

Our Municipality is implementing the full service as defined by the Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) throughout the Central Karoo District.

Municipal / Environmental Health is a fundamental public health approach affecting the whole population and are

services provided by our Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP's) essential elements in building a healthy population.

To fulfil the constitutional and legal obligations mandated to us for the provision of EH services, the availability of qualified and skilled EHP's is key to provide and facilitate comprehensive, pro-active and needs-related services in order to promote a safe, healthy and clean environment and to prevent diseases.

Our EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities we serve. We also act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers to ensure that our residents and visitors are able to live, work and play in a safe and healthy environment.

In recent years a number of emerging and reemerging disease have been seen around the world and in South Africa in particular. This is largely due to a continued neglect of basic public health practices in general and environmental health services in particular.

Environmental Health as a profession and service has undergone various stages of change. These changes were necessitated by a number of factors such as legislative reviews', new health services development model, new policy developments and changes in education and training.

The Section Municipal / Environmental Health of the Central Karoo District Municipality aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district.

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

### OUR FUNCTION

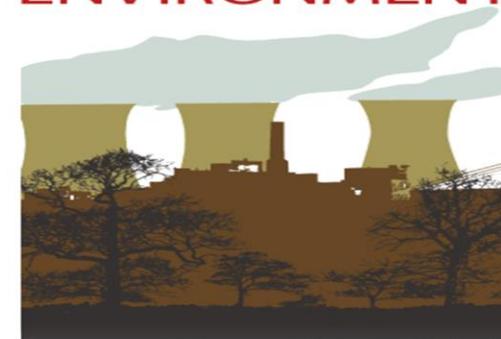
The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health.

In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Communicable Diseases Control;
- Vector Control;
- Chemical Safety; and
- Management of Human Remains.

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

YOUR  
HEALTH IS  
DIRECTLY  
LINKED TO YOUR  
ENVIRONMENT



## **STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH) NORMS & STANDARDS**

The National Norms & Standards for Environmental Health was gazetted in December 2015.

Standards are mainly based on existing S.A. policy & legislation, while also reflecting international best practice.

The Standards provide for a national approach and standardization of functions and activities in relation to environmental health by EHP's.

The Norms and Standards clearly outline monitoring standards for the delivery of quality Environmental Health Services, as well as acceptable standards requirements for surveillance of premises, such as business, state occupied premises, and for prevention of environmental conditions that may constitute a health hazard for protection of public health.

Inspections and investigations are guided by Section 82-83 of the National Health Act to ensure compliance with the Act.

*The impact of environmental health on the general health and well-being of the population is significant.*

*According to the World Bank, environmental health effects account for at least 20% of the burden of disease in the world, and improvements in environmental health can be considerably beneficial to the poor and underprivileged.*

*Adequate environmental health management prevents many diseases that could eventually result in high treatment costs.*

## **WHY SHOULD WE CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?**

Because caring for the environment will ensure:

- A healthier future for our children;
- The earth's resources that support plant and animal life will be sustained;
- A healthy and clean environment to live, work and play in.

## **JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST**

If you or any of your friends are interested in receiving our Annual Newsletter, you are welcome to send your e-mail address to Gerrit van Zyl, at [gerrit@skdm.co.za](mailto:gerrit@skdm.co.za).



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