



**Government of South Australia**

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SAAS Volunteer  
Health Advisory Council

# SAAS Volunteer Health Advisory Council

## **2017-18 Annual Report**

SAAS Volunteer Health Advisory Council

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To:

The Honourable Stephen Wade MLC  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This annual report is to be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *the Health Care Act 2008 (SA)* and meets the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the SAAS Volunteer Health Advisory Council by:

Greg Joseph ASM OAM

Presiding Member



28/09/2018

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Signature

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Date

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## **Section A: Reporting required under the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987***

### **Agency purpose or role**

SAASVHAC's role is to:

Provide advice and advocate on the needs, priorities and issues concerning volunteers within SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) in its provision of ambulance service to country South Australia.

Represent the interests and needs of volunteers within SAAS across the whole of country South Australia.

Provide advice to the Minister and SAAS on matters affecting, or that may affect the volunteer sector within SAAS.

Provide advice on any strategic issue that may have an impact on recruitment or retention of SAAS Volunteers.

### **Objectives**

SAASVHAC consists of volunteers who undertake an advisory and advocacy role on behalf of all SAAS volunteers.

### **Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives**

N/A

### **Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency**

N/A

### **Legislation administered by the agency**

N/A

### **Organisation of the agency**

SAASVHAC is an unincorporated body which provides advice to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing via the Chief Executive – SA Health and the Chief Executive Officer – SAAS, on behalf of SAAS Volunteers.

**Other agencies related to this agency (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)**

Department of Health and Wellbeing and SAAS

**Employment opportunity programs**

Nil

**Agency performance management and development systems**

N/A

**Work health, safety and return to work programs of the agency and their effectiveness**

N/A

**Work health and safety and return to work performance**

N/A

**Fraud detected in the agency**

Nil

**Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud**

SAASVHAC members and SAAS volunteers abide by any relevant SAAS strategies to control and prevent fraud.

Data from previous years is available at <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/99688f93-d6e3-4523-a6af-ae1e0940945b>

**Whistle-blowers' disclosure**

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistle-blowers' Protection Act 1993* 0

Data from previous years is available at [data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/sa-ambulance-service-volunteer-health-advisory-council](https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/sa-ambulance-service-volunteer-health-advisory-council)

## **Executive employment in the agency**

SAASVHAC consists of volunteers who undertake an advisory and advocacy role on behalf of all SAAS Volunteers.

Data for previous years is available at [data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/sa-ambulance-service-volunteer-health-advisory-council](https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/sa-ambulance-service-volunteer-health-advisory-council)

## **Consultants**

N/A

## **Contractors**

N/A

## **Financial performance of the agency**

Throughout the year SAASVHAC has provided strategic advice to SAAS in relation to expenditure from the country Capital Reserve Fund and Country Operating Reserve Fund.

## **Other financial information**

N/A

## **Other information requested by the Minister(s) or other significant issues affecting the agency or reporting pertaining to independent functions**

Nil

## Section B: Reporting required under any other act or regulation

<p><b>Name and date of act or regulation</b> <b>Health Care Act 2008</b></p>
<p>Section 17</p>
<p>During 2017-18 SAASVHAC has continued to actively consult with their members (1572 volunteers) and work closely with SAAS to ensure that the needs and priorities of the SAAS Volunteer sector are considered in the provision of ambulance services to country South Australia.</p> <p>SAASVHAC has been involved in the discussion of the future restructure of Country Operations through the SAAS Strategic Working Group during this process SAASVHAC supported the extra funding via Country Operating Reserve Fund for additional resources to improve volunteer training. These resources include six additional training ambulances, once for each country region and the introduction of training courses available on an electronic platform, allowing easy and readable access to training materials. It also facilitates streamlined processing and marking of student's course material whilst meeting requirements for Regional Training Organisation compliance and record keeping.</p> <p>Volunteers now have access to a SAAS provided email to improve communication and information sharing, including clinical notices, policies and procedures. Whilst the uptake by volunteers to use this format has been slow we are gradually seeing a small growth each month and have implemented strategies to help increase participation.</p> <p>Improvements to recruitment and selection processes, has seen an increase in the number of volunteers recruited and also a small increase in their retention. SAASVHAC, with SAAS are continually improving reward and recognition programs to be used in appreciation for SAAS volunteers, which will assist in their retention.</p> <p>While the changes to the training system have been implemented, this has not as yet reached its full potential which has been caused by a number of factors, including loss of key personnel, which has stalled the implementation of education materials and secondly the lack of personal resource to be able to develop the course material in a timely manner.</p> <p>SAASVHAC has made strong representation to both SAAS Strategic Working Group and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to assist with building community resilience.</p> <p>The question of volunteer sustainability has been an ongoing discussion within SAASVHAC. There are many challenges that are currently being faced in rural communities. SAASVHAC believe if provided with the right support and resources and ongoing reviews of the country service delivery model, volunteering with SAAS could be sustained.</p>

**Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005***

N/A

## **Section C: Reporting of public complaints as requested by the Ombudsman**

A whole of SA Health response is provided in the Department for Health and Wellbeing 2017-18 Annual Report which can be accessed on the [SA Health Website](#).

### **Complaint outcomes**

A whole of SA Health response is provided in the Department for Health and Wellbeing 2017-18 Annual Report which can be accessed on the [SA Health Website](#).

## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2017-18**

As the Health Advisory Council is unincorporated, its assets and liabilities are included in the financial reports of SAAS.