



A Guide to Contiguous Local Authorities Group formation

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Introduction

The Department of Health (the Department) is responsible for monitoring mosquito-borne diseases and coordinating the management of biting insects of public health significance across Western Australia (WA). A key component of this state-wide program is to provide support for local government (LG) mosquito management programs through the Contiguous Local Authorities Group (CLAG) funding scheme.

The CLAG scheme, endorsed by Cabinet in 1990, is a mechanism to assist LGs with management, funding and advice on the technical aspects of health-driven mosquito control, in an effort to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases throughout WA. The scheme recognises that effective cross-boundary mosquito management requires a collaborative effort between neighbouring LGs.

This document has been developed for LGs considering CLAG formation, and provides answers to the following questions:

- What is a CLAG?
- How to become a CLAG?
- What are the benefits for CLAGs?

What is a CLAG?

CLAGs are comprised of one or more (contiguous) LGs that share a common mosquito problem, which subsequently impacts on surrounding communities. Members of a CLAG commit to working together to improve management across the region, to reduce the public health risk associated with mosquitoes within each respective locality.

In most cases, CLAGs consist of two or more neighbouring LGs. Occasionally, a CLAG may be comprised of a single LG. CLAGs of this nature occur more commonly in the north of the WA where LGs are substantial in size, and it is either impractical to work closely with a neighbouring LG or there is little by way of a shared mosquito issue.

How to become a CLAG?

LGs considering CLAG formation are encouraged to contact the Department's Medical Entomology team (T: 9285 5500; E: medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au) to discuss eligibility and minimum requirements for proposed members. If the group then wishes to proceed with CLAG formation,

approval will need to be sought from the Mosquito Control Advisory Committee (MCAC), via the Department's Medical Entomology team.

The MCAC is a multi-agency committee administered by the Department with representatives from regional/metropolitan LGs and a range of other agencies, including the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Minimum requirements for CLAG formation include:

- a demonstrated public health risk and/or a significant nuisance issue associated with mosquitoes in the region
- development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between proposed LG members and the Department
- submission of an approved mosquito management plan (MMP) from each LG within the CLAG
- submission of a CLAG annual report, detailing mosquito management activities undertaken by the group for the year
- commitment by each LG member of the CLAG to contribute 50% funding towards mosquito management requests submitted to the MCAC
- a financial commitment to ensure each LG member of the CLAG has the capacity to undertake mosquito management in a particularly bad year for mosquitoes and funding requirements exceed the amount budgeted for through the CLAG program. This commitment may consist of one of the following options:
 1. Establish and contribute annually to a trust fund account. A trust fund account may be capped at an amount deemed sufficient to cover an above-average mosquito season.
 2. Provide an undertaking to assume responsibility for providing additional funding for mosquito management when the nuisance factor or mosquito-borne risk is greater than expected.

What are the benefits for CLAGs?

CLAGs will be supported by the Department through provision of best-practice mosquito management support and technical advice. A Department representative will regularly attend CLAG meetings, providing updates on notified cases of mosquito-borne disease within the region and predicted environmental conditions likely to impact the program.

A significant benefit of the CLAG scheme is the opportunity to apply for annual funding towards a range of mosquito management related items, including:

- chemical control strategies
- physical control strategies
- cultural control strategies (e.g. public education)
- mosquito management related equipment
- mosquito management related training and development.

The CLAG funding scheme also supports up to 100% of the costs (budget dependent) associated with helicopter larvicide treatments in high-risk areas of the Southwest of WA.

More information

For more information on CLAG formation, please contact Medical Entomology on:

- Phone: (08) 9285 5500
- Email: medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au

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