



# Future Roles of Environmental Health

Dr. Andrew Mathieson

Visiting Fellow - Centre for Health Stewardship, School of Medicine,  
Australian National University, ACT 0200.

Lecturer in Public Health  
Victoria University, Melbourne.

# Dr Andrew Mathieson

- REHIS, CIEH & EHa
- Director EHa (NSW) & National
- Fellow Australian National University
- Fellow Royal Society of Medicine
- Fellow Institute Food Safety & Technology
- Fellow Royal Society of Public Health
- Fellow Academy of Higher Education
- Approved Consultant – WHO, UNIDO & EU.



*The Sanitary Police, as seen by Punch*

# In this presentation you will experience

- A little bit of science
- A little bit of evidence
- A little bit of humour
- A few challenging question to take away

# 'Spot the bad egg'



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THEY ARE ALL POTENTIALLY BAD

# Back to basics

- What is and EHP
- Jack of all trades ... master of none
- Inspection vs Audit
- Lack of professional recognition
- Who do we benchmark against
- Doctors ... Nurses ... Lab techs ... cleaners
- Are we competent ...?

# Hierarches of competencies

- Graduate
- Inspector
- Auditor
- Senior EHO
- Coordinator
- Director
- Competencies ..



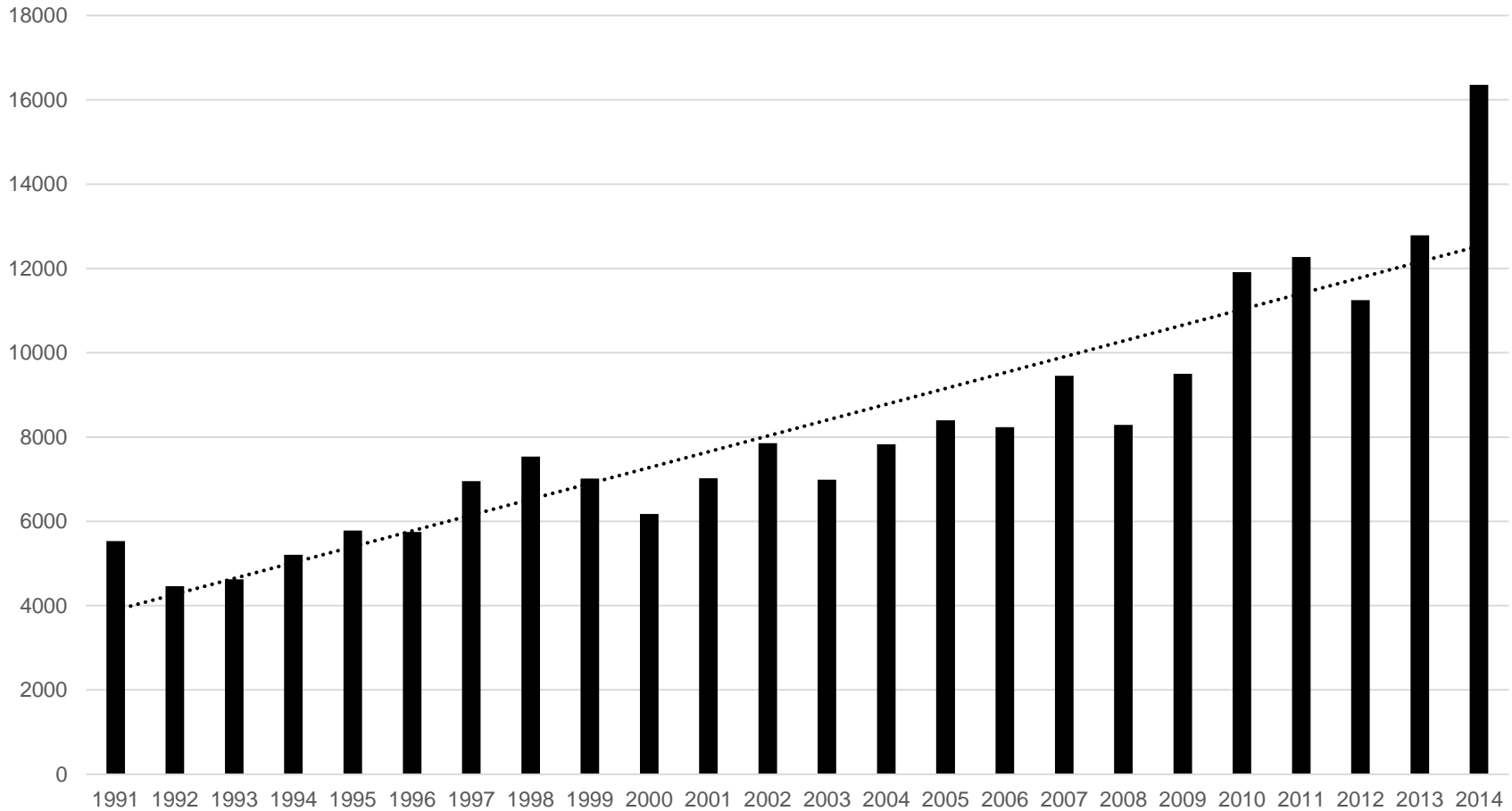
# How do we evidence success

- Number of inspections completed?
- Number of premises improved?
- Number of customer complaints
  - Dog barking ... long grass ... keeping chickens
- Calibrate success against effort
- Lobby government (local / state / federal)
- Effect change – smoking / HACCP / training
- Advocate with evidence

# Campylobacteriosis 1991 - 2014



**Number of notifications of Campylobacteriosis\*, Australia,  
in the period of 1991 to 2014 and year-to-date notifications for 2015**



Number of notifications of Salmonellosis, Australia, in the period of 1991 to 2014 and year-to-date notifications for 2015

I JUST FINISHED MY ON-LINE  
FOOD SAFETY COURSE!





# So what are our strategies / plans?

As I suspected, you're full of bacteria.  
We're going to have to throw  
you away.



# EH vs PH –what is in a name?

- Social or medical health model?
- EH – ‘Jack of all trades & master of none’
- PH – professionally sound & focused
- Both are experts problem solvers
- Health risk managers/interventionists
- Risk communicators – who is trusted more
- Entering a new Health Paradigm
- Adapt or fade away

# EH vs PH

- EH

- Food Safety/Hygiene
- OHS
- Water supplies
- Sewerage systems
- Accommodation
- Environment
- Training/teaching/policy
- Risk reduction
- Risk assessment & mitigation
- Social determinants

Prevention & intervention

- PH

- Infectious diseases
  - Tb, immunisation
- Non infectious diseases
  - Smoking, obesity, mental
- Coordination role
- Large scale events
- More complex PH issues
- Strategic health issues
- Health & environmental impact assessments
- Medical determinants

Planning & coordination



**‘We have a cunning plan.....’**



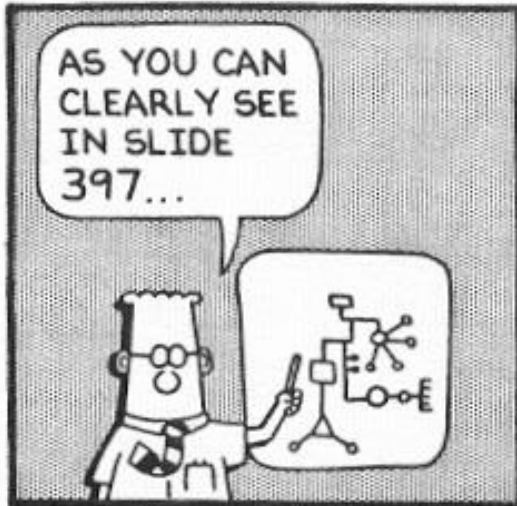
**Use the evidence base ...**

# Commissioning Health

- Slips, trips & hips
  - \$100,000 – OPERATION & REHAB
  - \$200,000 – SOCIAL CARE/NURSING HOME
  - >\$300,000 – TOTAL COST P.A./patient
- Solution ...
  - GIS ... salt/sand (\$20,000 p.a.)... weather warning ... social help (visits/shopping) ... remote monitoring ...

# Commissioning Health

- Beating hypothermia
  - Figures revealed that 1,876 patients were treated in hospital for the condition in 2010/11, an increase from 950 in 2006/07.
  - The number who died within 30 days of being admitted rose from 135 to 260
- Managed Heating
  - Insulation & remote monitoring
  - GPS ...tele-monitoring ...contact ...home visits ... in home care/patient management



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# Competition for resources

- Barking dogs ... mental health effect?
- Food visits ... reduces food poisoning
- OHS visits/insurance ... save lives
- EP ... protect people & environment
- Health Interventions ... save lives
- What can you prove ... what will be funded?
- PH are better than EH re evidence base

# New Approach to E&PH

- **representative** - owned by communities & shaped by their needs
- **resourced** - ring-fenced funding & incentives
- **rigorous** - Professionally led, focused on evidence, efficient and effective
- **resilient** – strengthening protection against current and future threats to health
- **policy Linkages** - top to bottom & counter current

# Prevention better than cure!



# Its too late...where was public health?





# New innovations

- Don't be afraid to say well done!
  - Satisfactory letters are now the norm!
- Some businesses always struggle
  - Language
  - Attitude
  - Education
  - Motivation
- We need to use the tools to change above

# Summary

- Redefine EH & PH
- Language/lexicon of PH
- Policy, Doctrine and planning
- Use the evidence base
- Competition for resources
- Winners & losers

# Any Questions?



## Some points to reflect upon

- Self regulation for large retail premises
- Private certification in place of local authority inspection service
- Does current legislation provide public safety?
- Local accountability vs increasing red tape
- Is the risk from non pasteurised milk ever acceptable?
- Is the risk from using raw eggs ever acceptable?

Email: [andrewmathieson7@Hotmail.com](mailto:andrewmathieson7@Hotmail.com)