

Killer virus claims life of woman

KATRINA STOKES

A 46-YEAR-OLD woman from regional South Australia has died from meningococcal – the 27th person stricken with the disease this year.

Health authorities issued a warning yesterday, stating that testing confirmed the woman died from the meningococcal W-strain on the weekend.

SA Health advised 11 people who had been in contact with the patient receive antibiotics.

No links have been established between cases.

Winter and spring-time poses a higher risk for meningococcal, but SA Health stresses the disease is spread only through close contact with others and there was “no increased public health risk”.

So far this year, there have been 27 cases of meningococcal in SA, compared with 20 cases recorded at the same time last year, with seven being the W-strain.



In spirit of science we lift glass to spud skins

ROXANNE WILSON

YOU can fry them, throw them in the compost and soon you could be drinking them.

In an effort to combat food waste, Potatoes South Australia has teamed up with the University of Adelaide and Adelaide Hills Distillery to make vodka from potato skins.

Potatoes SA chief executive officer Robbie Davis said while whole potatoes were used to make vodka, they hoped to determine if a premium SA spirit could be made with peel.

“Why shouldn’t we try and use them for something?” she said.

Potatoes SA won a \$30,000 State Government grant for the project through its Small Advanced Food Manufacturing Grants Program. Other recipients include Lobethal Bierhaus for a gluten-free beer, and Woodside Cheese Wrights for a luxury series of native Australian-inspired cheese.

University of Adelaide lecturer Dr Richard Muhlack, who is working on the project with a team of four, said they believed using potato peel to develop a spirit was a relatively new concept. If successful, large-scale batch trials would occur as early as December.

THICK SKIN: Researcher Yihe Sui and lecturer Dr Richard Muhlack from The University of Adelaide work on the project at the university's Waite Research Institute. Picture: BIANCA DE MARCHI