

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATION REVIEW

DRAFT REFORMS TO FOOD SAFETY REGULATION

Presentation to the EHPA Food Forum, 28 February
2017

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Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport
and Resources

CONTEXT OF OUR REVIEW

- This project is part of the Treasurer's Regulation Reform Program
- It seeks to reduce the regulatory burden on small business
- Our draft reforms cover:
 - Access to information
 - Approvals processes
 - **Food safety regulation**
 - Retail leases

The draft reforms in this presentation are yet to be endorsed by Government

THE DRAFT REFORMS WERE CO-DESIGNED

We held 'sprint' workshops:
4 day workshops to more deeply understand regulatory issues from a small business perspective

Co-designed reform options with the core 'sprint' team

Socialised and tested reforms with experts and executives

Several EHOs were involved

Participants found this process energising and empowering

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OUR DRAFT FOOD SAFETY REGULATION REFORMS



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DRAFT FOOD REFORM ONE: CLARITY FOR ALL

- We found there are implementation differences across councils
- This reform would bring together all parties to co-design guidance notes on critical implementation areas
 - DHHS would lead the development with co-design from local councils and industry members
 - The guidance notes would focus on key areas of implementation agreed by the group
- This will benefit both **small business** (increased certainty, more accurate interpretation of the Act); and **local councils** (less time spent interpreting Act, training materials)

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DRAFT FOOD REFORM 2: FEE TRANSPARENCY

- We found that food safety fees information can be hard to find
- We propose that food regulation fees are published in a prominent place on council websites
- Again, benefits to small business (increased transparency) and to local councils (increased acceptance of fee through understanding how it is used)

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DRAFT FOOD REFORM 3: ENHANCE THE STREATRADER WEBSITE

- This draft reforms seeks to maximise the value of the Streatrader website
- Two types of changes are proposed:
 - All councils to upload a consistent level of compliance material to enable greater risk based allocation of council resources
 - Automating some processes to reduce admin costs and reduce the statement of trade notification period from 5 days to 1 day
- Benefits to small business through reduced costs, councils benefit by being able to focus effort on high-risk businesses

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DRAFT FOOD REFORM 4: REDUCE RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

- We suggest removing the ‘minimum reporting requirement’ in the Food Act for some lower risk businesses
- And, remove annual mandatory inspections for good performing food safety businesses (still optional inspections)
- We continue to work with DHHS, PrimeSafe and Dairy Food Safe Victoria and MAV to refine this proposed reform
- **Note** that this recommendation will not impact on the food recall program requirements imposed on many business under the Food Standards Code.

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DRAFT FOOD SAFETY REFORM 5: UNDERTAKE A BUSINESS CASE FOR A ONE-STOP ONLINE PORTAL FOR FIXED FOOD BUSINESSES

- This draft reform proposes the creation of a centralised registration system for fixed premises food businesses
- Again, it will make your job easier, as you can access this system rather than each council having its own database
- It will cut down on processing time, help manage compliance history, allow for sharing of information and help in product recalls
- This reform is yet to be subject to a cost benefit analysis which will be conducted by DHHS

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NEXT STEPS

- These reforms are yet to be endorsed by ministers or the government and are officer level only
- Our next step is to provide them to Government ahead of the release of a public consultation process in early May
- We welcome your feedback ahead of the release of a final Action Statement in mid 2017.

Thank you

"at the start I was sceptical of the process. Having been through the process I'm a convert - there are some great ideas in the proposed reforms"

- a stakeholder who participated in our food safety 'sprint'

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