



Hon Jill Hennessy MP

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Kym Peake
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
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Dear Secretary

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS - FOOD SAFETY UNIT

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations for the Department of Health and Human Services' Food Safety Unit. The Statement of Expectations applies for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, or until otherwise amended.

As Minister for Health, I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. My responsibilities include administering the *Food Act 1984* – designed to ensure that food sold to customers is safe and suitable to eat. Effective, efficient and proportionate regulation can be an important tool to achieve the objectives of this Act.

Improving the Administration Regulation

This Statement of Expectations sets out my expectations in relation to the Food Safety Unit's contribution to the Victorian Government's Regulation Reform Program.

As Minister for Health, I expect the Food Safety Unit to consult with key stakeholders when considering any new policy or designing new regulation, to ensure unnecessary regulatory burden can be minimised, in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the Act.

After consulting with the Food Safety Unit, I have identified specific opportunities for the Unit to improve its regulatory performance. These improvements are enclosed.

Reporting Requirements for the Ministerial Statement and the Unit's Response

I expect that the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and the Unit's proposed response to these, will be incorporated into the Unit's work plan and published on the department's website.

Reporting on your progress to achieve these Statement of Expectations performance targets should be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2016-17 financial year, on the department's website.

I look forward to the Food Safety Unit working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jill Hennessy', with a large flourish at the end.

Hon Jill Hennessy MP
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23/5 / 2016

Encl. Ministerial Statement of Expectations: Improvements for the Food Safety Unit

Ministerial Statement of Expectations - Improvements for the Food Safety Unit

This Statement of Expectations for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 sets out my expectations in relation to the Food Safety Unit's contribution to the Government's Regulation Reform Program. After consulting with the Food Safety Unit, I have identified opportunities for the Unit to improve its regulatory performance. These improvements include:

- Providing clear and effective communication to chain food businesses, supermarkets and local government stakeholders about their obligations under proposed and publically announced kilojoule labelling laws. To facilitate a smooth transition to the new laws when they take effect, communication will be appropriately targeted and accessible to stakeholders. To this end the Unit will seek input from industry, unions and local government stakeholders in relation to:
 - a proposed communication strategy to support kilojoule labelling laws
 - draft material to be provided to stakeholders informing them about the new laws.
- Improving local government risk management practices in relation to assessing compliance of food premises, with food safety legislation. This will be achieved through activities to be undertaken by the Food Safety Unit including:
 - training local government enforcement officers in risk based inspections of food premises
 - developing and disseminating improved guidance material for local government.
- Improving the accountability of the Food Safety Audit system by:
 - developing and implementing a program to assess the competency of department approved auditors, during the audit process
 - revising and disseminating guidance material for auditors regarding their obligations under the *Food Act 1984*.
- Improving risk management, in relation to food allergens and intolerances. This will focus particularly on small to medium sized businesses, with the aim of protecting the safety of Victorian consumers. This will be achieved through activities such as providing more targeted information and training for food safety supervisors, food handlers, food safety auditors and enforcement officers in local government, related to food allergens and food intolerances.

In developing actions to achieve these improvements, the Food Safety Unit is expected to consult with business and the broader community as appropriate.