

# Upcoming food safety reforms

Department of Health and Human Services

## Food Safety Reform Program 2018-21

The Victorian Government undertook a review to map the areas of regulation that are the most burdensome for small retail businesses. This review, the Small Business Regulation Retail Sector Review 2016-18, identified areas of potentially unnecessary regulation or changes to the administration of regulation that would reduce the burden on small business in Victoria.

The review also recommended several reforms to assist food businesses to better understand food safety regulation and their obligations under the Victorian *Food Act 1984* (the Act). This led to the creation of the Food Safety Reform Program.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) is currently working towards implementing the changes identified by the review over the next three years as it rolls out the work schedule for the Food Safety Reform Program.

### How will the Food Safety Reform Program assist food businesses?



We will produce **guidance material** to make it clearer and easier for businesses to identify what their responsibilities are under the Act. We will work with local councils to ensure consistent assessment of food businesses across council boundaries.



We will work with councils to improve the **transparency of the fees** councils charge food businesses.



We are **enhancing Streatrader**, the online registration portal for mobile and temporary food businesses in Victoria, making it easier for businesses and community groups to register at short notice for events, and for organisers to quickly access and manage their event registrations.



We are reviewing and simplifying **record keeping requirements** for some types of food premises and working with councils to improve the way we **assess** and **classify food premises**.

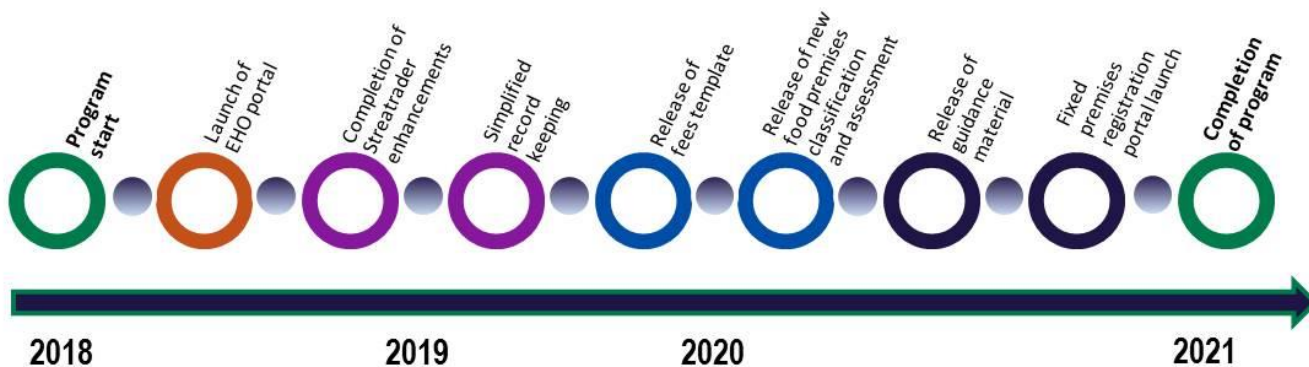


We are developing a **fixed premises online registration platform** (similar to the temporary and mobile food premises registration portal, Streatrader). Businesses will be able to lodge their food premises registrations through this one-stop online application service.

The department will continue to engage extensively with interested stakeholders before implementing these changes to ensure the reforms align with food business' needs. We are implementing these changes over the next three years (see the program timeline on the next page).

If you would like to read more about the findings of the **Small Business Regulation Retail Sector Review 2016-2018** in the final Action Statement 'Making it easier to do business in Victoria – Small Business Regulation Review (retail sector)' available on the [Engage Victoria website](https://engage.vic.gov.au/smallbizreview/small-business-regulation-review-retail) at: <<https://engage.vic.gov.au/smallbizreview/small-business-regulation-review-retail>>. You can also read more about the reforms in the publication 'Detailed descriptions of the Final Action Statement reforms', also on the Engage Victoria website. As the food safety reforms progress, the department will provide more information what it may mean to you via your local council and the food safety section on the [health.vic website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/food-safety): <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/food-safety>>.

### Program timeline 2018-21



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