

# FOOD DIGEST

Autumn 2011



## Message from the Mayor



Council continues its commitment to food safety throughout the City and this newsletter outlines the many initiatives Council is undertaking to ensure that local

business produce safe food.

Firstly, it was with great pride that Council accepted the award for Australia's Best Restaurant Hygiene Rating Scheme at the 2011 CHOICE Awards. The Food Safety Star Rating Project is a fantastic scheme and to be recognised by CHOICE is a significant achievement. I encourage all businesses to participate.

I'm Alert is an online training program aimed at providing food safety training to food businesses. Council has registered with I'm Alert to allow free access for all local businesses. I am sure all food businesses will benefit from this initiative.

Finally, Council has recently completed an audit of all child care centres and schools. Council is pleased that the audits showed that all child care centres and schools are meeting basic food safety standards.

Remember that if you have any other enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Council's Environmental Health Officers on 9911 6555.

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas  
City of Canada Bay

## Best Restaurant Hygiene Rating Scheme in Australia

Council's Food Safety Star Rating Project was awarded Australia's Best Restaurant Hygiene Rating Scheme at the 2011 CHOICE Awards. Council's scheme was compared with a number of other schemes operating across Australia and was voted as the best by CHOICE.

CHOICE identified 11 schemes in operation across Australia:

- City of Canada Bay (NSW)
- Manly City Council (NSW)
- NSW Food Authority (NSW)
- Brisbane City Council (Qld)
- Logan City Council (Qld)
- Gold Coast City Council (Qld)
- Salisbury Council (SA)
- Charles Sturt City Council (SA)
- Glen Eira City Council (Vic)
- Whitehorse City Council (Vic)
- Melville City Council (WA)

"The City of Canada Bay has designed a restaurant hygiene program which consistently and effectively engages businesses to meet strict best practice criteria. Importantly, the program also educates and informs consumers and is run in a way that could provide a template for a national 'scores on doors

scheme',", says CHOICE Spokesperson, Ingrid Just.

Council is extremely proud of the result and would like to thank all participating businesses for contributing to the success of this program.

Over 40 local businesses are already participating in the Food Safety Star Rating Project and if your business isn't already part of the best scheme in Australia, then now is the time to join. Contact Council's Environmental Health Section to discuss the requirements of the program and start enjoying the many benefits this scheme produces.



Josh Bradshaw, Mayor Angelo Tsirekas, Nigel Bertus, Gary Sawyer and Megan Davenport



## Want to know more?

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the Environmental Health Team by emailing [health@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:health@canadabay.nsw.gov.au) or visit our website [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au).

Environmental Health Coordinator	Josh Bradshaw	9911 6417
Environmental Health Officer	Megan Davenport	9911 6415
Environmental Health Officer	Glenda Christie	9911 6416

## Food Safety is Child's Play

With children as customers, it is critical that child care centres and schools maintain a high standard of food safety. Council recently conducted audits of all local child care centres and schools and found the standard of food safety to be high.

Council will continue to work with both sectors to ensure that food safety is maintained and improved. Council is in the process of updating its website and creating educational material to ensure that there is material available specific to child care centres and schools.

## Have Your Say

The City of Canada Bay as part of the Inner Sydney Councils Regional Food Group is assisting University of Western Sydney student Anna Moodie, who is conducting a study titled; *Supporting local food business through food safety education.*

The aim of the study is to assess councils communication and education techniques to define areas that can be improved and further developed.

As part of the project Anna has set up a short survey online. If you have a few minutes and would like to have a say in how Council's communication and education systems can be improved in the future go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ISCRFG\\_Education\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ISCRFG_Education_Survey)

*Photos appearing in this publication are courtesy of the City of Canada Bay and Australia Post for Our Community.*

## Food Safety Supervisor Requirement

A reminder to all businesses that new food laws require most food businesses in NSW to have at least one qualified Food Safety Supervisor (FSS) by 1 October 2011.

All Food Safety Supervisors must be trained by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) approved by the NSW Food Authority. Previous training may be recognised, but must be approved by the NSW Food Authority.

Go to [www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/fss-food-safety-supervisors/](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/fss-food-safety-supervisors/) to see the full list of approved RTOs. It is recommended that you book your Food Safety Supervisor into training NOW.



## Food Activity Statistics (1 July 2010 - 31 Dec 2010)

Activity	Total
Complaints to Council regarding Food Businesses	26
Warning Letters	203
Penalty Infringement Notices (On the Spot Fine)	29
Improvement Notices	18
Prohibition Orders	1
Seizures	0
Prosecutions	0

## Are you alert?

Council is pleased to provide all local food businesses with FREE unlimited access to an exciting new product that will assist you and your food handlers in gaining valuable skills and knowledge in food safety and hygiene.

The *I'm Alert* program is presented in an interactive, easy to follow, and entertaining format and enables you to print off an acknowledgement form and a certificate upon completion of the program that can be kept as a part of your staff records.

It is recommended that all food handlers within your food business take part in this training. This is a great opportunity

to provide all your staff with training that would otherwise cost your business money and a great deal more in time.

To take part in the training, go to [www.canadabay.imalert.com.au](http://www.canadabay.imalert.com.au).



*I'm Alert Website*