

# FOOD DIGEST

Edition 5  
Spring 2008



## Fresh Start, Fresh Food

Food regulation changed across the state on 1 July 2008 with all Councils now inspecting food businesses under the same system. The new system is aimed at improving consistency across Council areas and to improve the information provided to the public on food safety activities.

Under the new system, all NSW food businesses have been categorised into three categories (Level 0, Level 1 and Level 2). In addition to this, all NSW Councils are required to provide regular reports to the NSW Food Authority on most aspects of food regulation activities (e.g. Number of satisfactory businesses, complaints etc).

Council commenced implementing its new Food Safety Surveillance Strategy on 1 July 2008 and so far the new strategy is working well. Council's Environmental Health

Officers are currently inspecting all food premises and thus far, most food premises are responding well to the new strategy.

Council plans to release regular statistical reports on its website every three months, starting this month, which will include information on general food business inspection results throughout the City. As with the report provided to the NSW Food Authority, no individual businesses or results will be identified.



### 1st Quarter Food Activity Statistics (July 2008 - September 2008)

Activity	Total
Complaints to Council regarding Food Businesses	17
Warning Letters	58
Penalty Infringement Notices (On the Spot Fine)	13
Improvement Notices	5
Prohibition Orders	0
Seizures	0
Prosecutions	0

## Message From the Mayor



By now you should all be aware of the changes to the NSW Food Act and how they affect your business. The changes have been implemented across the state and the new system is operating well here, with local food businesses enjoying an improved service from Council in relation to food safety. It

would be reassuring for you all to know that your business is being regulated under the same system as all other food businesses in NSW.

The last round of food safety seminars were a great success and it was very positive to see so many businesses represented at the four seminars held across the City. The seminars provided a unique opportunity for food business staff to discuss any issues they had in relation to food safety with Council's

Environmental Health Officers. Congratulations to everyone who attended and I'm certain you found the seminars beneficial to your business.

All the best for your business coming into the holiday period and remember that if you have any questions at all in relation to food safety, please don't hesitate to contact Council's Environmental Health Officers.

**Mayor Angelo Tsirekas**  
City of Canada Bay

## Name and Shame

The NSW State Government through the NSW Food Authority has recently started publicly listing any NSW food business that has been issued with a fine as of 3 May 2008 on their *Register of Penalty Notices*. The State Government believe the register will assist consumers in deciding where to eat and buy food. The register not only shows the business's name, but also the offence and Local Council they

belong to. Offender's details will remain on the register for one year.

The register has received over 1.4 million hits since going live and has received widespread media coverage.

You should be aware that if you are issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice (fine) by Council, it is probable that the fine will be published on the

list for the general public to see. Council is likely to issue a fine where a serious breach of food legislation has been observed, or where the same breach has been observed on more than one occasion.

To view the register, go to the NSW Food Authority website:  
[www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)

## Take Steps to Prevent Pests

Controlling and preventing the entry of pests is a common problem in food premises. As pests carry diseases it is critical that food handlers are aware of steps they can take to prevent the entry of pests and how to identify and respond to a pest infestation.

Some simple steps you can take to control, and manage pests in your food premises include:

1. Seal all cracks and crevices. Take time to check for any cracks and crevices within the food business as these may provide an entry point for pests.
2. Reduce clutter. Dispose of any unused items such as cardboard boxes and other miscellaneous items as these provide warmth and harborage for pests.
3. Clean those hard to reach places. Whilst many food businesses regularly clean their premises, it is important to remember those hard to reach places, such as under food preparation benches and behind equipment. Remaining floor waste may attract and provide food for pests.
4. Keep a look out for evidence of pests. Regularly check the

premises, particularly in warm quiet places such as behind the refrigerator for evidence of pests.

5. Regularly engage the services of a qualified pest controller. Organising a regular pest inspection or arranging an inspection when evidence of pests is identified can assist in preventing and controlling a pest infestation. Remember that if you have a pest controller undertaking work and there is still a pest problem, you should discuss the matter with the pest controller.

## Annual Administration Fees

Council has received a number of enquiries relating to the Annual Administration Fee that food businesses are being invoiced for following their routine inspection. The Annual Administration Fee was discussed at the recent food safety seminars and in the Winter edition of this newsletter.

The Annual Administration Fee was introduced across NSW as part of the recent changes to food legislation. All NSW Councils need to charge the Annual Administration Fee to cover the administrative costs incurred through food regulation and in providing valuable resources and initiatives of benefit to all food businesses. The Annual

Administration Fee is a separate charge to the routine inspection fee.

All food businesses that are inspected will be charged the Annual Administration Fee, however you will only be charged this fee once per financial year. The Annual Administration Fee is charged according to your level of classification.

Level Classification	Annual Administration Fee
Level 0	\$100
Level 1	\$150
Level 2	\$200

Should you have any further questions about the Annual Administration Fee, please contact Council on 9911 6555 or go to [www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au).

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

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