

Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Due date of submission – 11 April 2022

The Victorian Departments of Health and Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application/proposal to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

Proposal *P1053 – Food Safety Management Tools* recommends a range of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to be applied to food service businesses according to the category of risk the business presents, to assist in improving food safety measures.

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report it is understood that:

- The regulatory measures include (i) a certified food safety supervisor; (ii) food handler training; and (iii) the provision of evidence to substantiate adequate food safety management.
- The regulatory measures apply differently to food service businesses based on the level of risk in the food service business.
- The categories of risk are based on the production and service of potentially hazardous foods and are based on a risk profile of food service businesses conducted by FSANZ.
- Regulatory measures are graduated with all three regulatory measures required for Category 1 businesses, food handler training, and food safety supervisors required for Category 2 businesses.
- Category 3 businesses, judged lowest risk, will be encouraged to maintain records of evidence of food safety management through education programs and provision of template record sheets, but the use of these will not be mandated.
- Non-regulatory support measures to support these include food safety culture initiatives and initiatives to provide comprehensive education and support products to food service businesses.

The departments support the approach of focusing regulatory activity where food safety risks are highest. On the basis of the information above and FSANZ's conclusion that there are no public health and safety issues associated the proposal, and in fact these measures should contribute to improved food safety in Australia, the departments support the progression of Proposal P1053.