



## FINES DOUBLED FOR TOBACCO OFFENCES

The Victorian Government has substantially increased the penalties for individuals and companies who sell cigarettes to a person aged younger than 18.

On 1 January 2010, the maximum on-the-spot fine for an individual who sells cigarettes to a minor increased from \$234 to \$468, and for companies from \$3504 to \$7,009.

If an individual or company is successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court, the court-imposed fine has increased to a maximum \$14,018 for an individual and \$70,092 for a company.

Since September 2008, Council has been testing local tobacco retailers to see whether they sell cigarettes to minors, with on-the-spot fines issued to those who offend.

In the statewide program which is coordinated by the Department of Health in partnership with local councils, teenagers are employed to attempt to purchase cigarettes from local tobacco retailers.

The sale rate since commencing the test purchase program had dropped from 62% in September 2008 to 23% in September 2009. However, in December 2009 there was a 47% sale rate.

Further test purchase days will be conducted this year, so please ensure all staff are aware of the requirements. Further information is available from the Public Health Unit on 9205 5166 or via the Department of Human Services Tobacco Reform webpage: [www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms).

## IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS...

In the past month or two, Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) have noticed situations where animals have been allowed to be present in a food business.

The Food Safety Standards state that live animals are not permitted in areas where food is handled, regardless of whether food is in a package.

The only exception is for assistance animals (such as guide dogs), who are allowed in dining and drinking areas and other areas where customers can go.

Council's EHOs have observed that a kitten was part of a premises' pest control program, while another proprietor allowed dogs to be carried through a premises to a rear courtyard. Both these situations are not compliant.

These restrictions do not apply to areas of the footpath where a premises may have seats and tables for customer dining, as this is viewed as Council land rather than part of the premises.

### Welcome

Welcome to *Food News* - a quarterly bulletin produced by Yarra City Council to keep businesses informed about current food safety news and health requirements.

Information on food safety is also provided on our website at [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au).

Would you like to receive a copy of Food News and other business information electronically? If so, please email your details to: [info@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Contact Details

Public Health Unit  
Yarra City Council  
Richmond Town Hall  
333 Bridge Road Richmond 3121

**Tel:** 9205 5166 **Fax:** 8417 6666

**Website:** [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)



## FOOD POISONING CASE RESOLVED

After more than two years, a case involving the sale of unsafe food in a Yarra restaurant was finally heard in the Magistrates' Court last December.

Several people ate food from the restaurant at a pre-Christmas function in December 2007 and fell sick with food poisoning caused by Salmonella.

After many adjournments and a number of other legal issues, the defendant pleaded guilty to one charge of selling unsafe food and four other charges covering several cleaning and maintenance issues.

There had been no other significant issues regarding non-compliance at the restaurant since 2007 and the defendant cooperated with Council Officers during the investigation.

Magistrate Julie O'Donnell found the charges proven and fined the defendant \$20,000 without conviction and ordered the company to pay \$10,000 costs.



## YARRA SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Council invites you to enter your business in the Yarra Sustainability Awards 2010.

The **Sustainable Business Award** category aims to celebrate and reward small to medium businesses in Yarra that have shown innovation and leadership in their efforts to make their business more environmentally sustainable. Have you taken steps to reduce your energy, water and waste or started using environmentally friendly materials or promoted sustainable transport to your staff and customers?

The awards are a chance to share your ideas and achievements, no matter how small, with the Yarra community. Winners will receive a framed certificate, publication of your name in Council publications and local papers, as well as permission to use the Awards logo in your own publicity materials.

Entries close on Wednesday 31 March 2010.

For further information, eligibility criteria and application forms visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment), or contact Rachel Oliphant, Community Sustainability Officer, on 9205 5769 or at [rachel.oliphant@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachel.oliphant@yarracity.vic.gov.au).

## FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM RECORDS

During visits to premises, EHOs will ask to look at your Food Safety Program records. This helps assist with our monitoring of your compliance.

It is important that records are kept at the premises at all times. Do not take them home for updating or give them to your accountant.

Keeping records provides you with checks to help ensure you produce safe food.

From 2011, EHOs may issue fines for a lack of records on the premises.

## NEW MOBILE OFFICE FOR EHOs

When an EHO next visits your premises, you may notice they will be using small hand-held devices to record their observations of their inspections.

At the time of the visit, you will be told the result of the inspection. You will then receive a report in the post within a few business days confirming these results.

We are hopeful of a smooth transition but we ask for your patience during inspections as we get used to these new devices.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT AND YOUR LANGUAGE IS NOT LISTED BELOW, YOU CAN CONTACT AN INTERPRETER ON **9280 1940**

### VIETNAMESE

NẾU MUỐN BIẾT THÊM CHI TIẾT VỀ NỘI DUNG VĂN KIỆN NÀY, QUÍ VỊ CÓ THỂ LIÊN LẠC VỚI MỘT THÔNG DỊCH VIÊN QUA ĐIỆN THOẠI SỐ **9280 1939**

### GREEK

ΑΝ ΘΕΛΕΤΕ ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΤΕΡΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ ΣΕ ΣΧΕΣΗ ΜΕ ΤΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ ΠΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΝΤΑΙ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ ΑΥΤΟ, ΜΠΟΡΕΙΤΕ ΝΑ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΗΣΕΤΕ ΜΕ ΕΝΑ ΔΙΕΡΜΗΝΕΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΡΙΘΜΟ **9280 1934**

### MANDARIN

如果想要进一步了解这份文件中的内容，您可以致电 **9280 1937**，和翻译员取得联系

### CANTONESE

如果您要更多地瞭解關於這篇文件的內容，您可以與傳譯員聯絡，電話號碼**9280 1932**

### ITALIAN

SE DESIDERATE SAPERNE DI PIÙ CIRCA LE INFORMAZIONI CONTENUTE IN QUESTO DOCUMENTO, POTETE CONTATTARE UN INTERPRETE AL **9280 1931**

### TURKISH

BU BELGEDE YERALAN BİLGİLERE İLİŞKİN DAHA FAZLA BİLGİ EDİNMEK İSTİYORSANIZ, **9280 1938** NUMARADAN BİR TERCÜMANLA GÖRÜŞEBİLİRSİNİZ

### ARABIC

لمعرفة المزيد عن المعلومات الواردة في هذه الوثيقة بإمكانكم الاتصال بمترجم على الرقم **9280 1930**

### SPANISH

SI QUIERE MÁS DETALLES SOBRE LA INFORMACIÓN CONTENIDA EN ESTE DOCUMENTO, PÓNGASE EN CONTACTO CON UN INTERPRETE LLAMANDO AL TELÉFONO Nº **9280 1935**

### MACEDONIAN

ΑΚΟ ΣΑΚΑΤΕ ΔΑ ΔΟΖΝΑΕΤΕ ΠΟΒΕΚΕ ΖΑ ΙΝΦΟΡΜΑЦИИТЕ ВО ОВОЈ ДОКУМЕНТ ЈΑΒΕΤΕ СЕ ΖΑ ΠΡΕΒΕДУΒΑЧ ΗΑ **9280 1936**

## 2009 – A SNAPSHOT OF COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS' ACTIVITIES

Number of food premises in Yarra	1391
Number of inspections of food premises	1798
Number of inspections of temporary food stalls	107
% Food premises complying on first proactive inspection	93%
Food samples taken	450
(from 191 premises)	
Percentage of food samples that complied with standards	79%
Six prosecutions were commenced	
30 orders to comply with the Food Act were issued	

A total of 161 complaints were received by Council about food premises. These resulted in a visit to the food business concerned.