

28 January 2021

Aspirations for the food regulatory system  
Food Regulation Modernisation Consultations  
By Email: [FoodRegulationModernisation@health.gov.au](mailto:FoodRegulationModernisation@health.gov.au)

Dear Secretariat

We refer to the invitation to file a Submission in response to the Food Regulation Standing Committee's consultation paper titled *Aspirations for the food regulatory system*. Restaurant & Catering Australia ("R&CA") is pleased to provide a submission in this matter.

R&CA is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 47,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses across Australia. The café, restaurant and catering sector is vitally important to the national economy, generating over \$37 billion in retail turnover each year as well as employing 450,000 people. Over 92 per cent of businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector are small businesses, employing 19 people or less.

R&CA delivers tangible outcomes to small businesses within the hospitality industry by influencing the policy decisions and regulations that impact the sector's operating environment. R&CA is committed to ensuring the industry is recognised as one of excellence, professionalism, profitability and sustainability. This includes advocating the broader social and economic contribution of the sector to industry and government stakeholders, as well as highlighting the value of the restaurant experience to the public.

R&CA notes that the consultation paper has identified six key goals or aspirations for the food regulatory system:

- Strengthen the strategic leadership of the system;
- Reorient the system from being focused on 'food regulation' to focus on achieving shared objectives (where regulation is one tool used to achieve the objectives);
- Expand the range of tools available to monitor compliance and respond to non-compliance (coordinated, targeted and efficient);
- Improve feedback loops to inform regulatory and nonregulatory approaches and responses;
- Better involve stakeholders in identifying priorities and developing integrated strategies; and
- Improve regulatory responsiveness.

R&CA would like to place on record our support for these aspirations and goals and our beliefs that they are appropriate and sensible goals to guide the ongoing modernisation of the food regulation system across Australia.

If you have any questions relating to R&CA's views, do not hesitate to contact me.



**Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Restaurant & Catering Australia



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& Catering