

11 April 2022
R&CA Submission
Food Safety Management Tools



Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on FSANZ's call for comment on new proposed Food Safety Management Tools

R&CA is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 55,000 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 350,000 people.

Over 93 per cent of businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector are small businesses, employing 19 people or less.

Food safety management is an important part of ensuring that standards across the hospitality are upheld and foodborne illnesses are prevented.

Whilst R&CA supports a nation framework that brings consistency to all states and territories, we are concerned with the suggested costing for the Food Safety Supervisor (FSS) course.

The suggested approximate in FSANZ's consultation paper places course fees at \$506. In jurisdictions such as NSW, similar courses on average cost around \$120 or less. R&CA believes that this price is far too high and would create serious financial strain on businesses as well as a disincentive for new entrants into the industry.

Two years of COVID-19 restrictions and international border closures have meant that the pre-existing staff shortages that the industry faced pre-COVID has been exacerbated tenfold.

R&CA implores FSANZ to recommend a lower price to relieve the burden on small business and to help encourage job seekers to take up hospitality as a career without imposing unnecessary costs on them.

We thank you for this opportunity to make this submission.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wes Lambert".

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