

## Fact Sheet for Councils

From 1 July 2011, amendments to the Food Act 1984 came into effect, which included streamlining the registration and regulation requirements of temporary and mobile food businesses. These businesses are no longer required to register with multiple municipalities.

*Streatrader* is a new online system, developed in partnership by the Department of Health and the Municipal Association of Victoria, to assist statewide single registration.

*Streatrader* will support temporary and mobile food businesses with registration applications, and lodging notification and Statement of Trade documents with the relevant council.

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### WHAT IS STREATRADER?

*Streatrader* is the name given to a new website that allows single registration of temporary and mobile food businesses and food vending machines. It is also a tool for councils to manage and monitor temporary and mobile food businesses operating in their municipality.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Under the new legislative requirements, the temporary or mobile food business registers or notifies their principal council to trade statewide.

The principal council is identified by the location of each business' primary premises. This is where the business:

1. prepares food before trading; or
2. stores food before trading.

If the business does not do either of these, it will be where the business:

1. stores equipment for its stall or tent; or
2. garages its vehicle.

*Streatrader* also collects and stores information about each registered business, which is available for viewing by all councils.

### WHAT FUNCTIONALITY DOES IT HAVE?

The primary functions of *Streatrader* for temporary and mobile food business are to:

- Lodge applications for registration or notification of relevant premises electronically
- Lodge Statements of Trade electronically

The primary functions of *Streatrader* for councils are to:

- Provide electronic alerts for a council to process, grant or reject an application
- Allow councils to review business history and activity of temporary and mobile food businesses trading in their municipality. This includes inspections and assessments
- Share information about temporary and mobile food business amongst councils
- Keep a record of fees paid

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Moving to a statewide system of registration removes the need for multiple registrations in different municipalities. Each year temporary and mobile food businesses only need to register once, with their principal council.

Benefits to businesses:

### Simple

All the forms required will be available online. *Streatrader* will guide businesses through the process.

### Efficient

Documents only need to be lodged online. Once an application to register or notify is accepted by the principal council, businesses can trade anywhere in Victoria, provided a statement of trade has been lodged.

### Convenient

Being online means businesses can log in online anywhere, anytime, and complete and lodge their paperwork.

Benefits to councils:

- Accurate and up-to-date information about temporary, mobile and vending machine businesses operating in their municipality
- Better regulatory information to target poor performers
- Greater level of awareness of upcoming events
- Ability to share information between councils

## WHAT ROLE CAN COUNCILS PLAY?

Victoria's 79 councils are responsible for registering and regulating temporary and mobile food businesses.

Council officers will be invited to attend training sessions and are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the system and adjust their own internal processes if necessary.

With the changeover to a statewide online system, councils are encouraged to promote *Streatrader* to mobile and temporary food businesses.

By promoting the site after training is completed (throughout August), councils can assist in the take-up of *Streatrader* by temporary and mobile food businesses.

Councils will be provided with communications tools to assist in the promotion *Streatrader*. Among these will be a brochure, poster, and templates for a media release and website story. A media and advertising campaign will also be implemented.

## WHAT ROLE CAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & PEAK BODIES PLAY?

Support from groups that interface with temporary and mobile food businesses is invaluable in raising awareness of the site, which has time and cost saving benefits for temporary and mobile food businesses.

State government agencies, like Small Business Victoria, and peak bodies for food related businesses in Victoria play an important role in the promotion of *Streatrader* and are encouraged to publish and distribute information provided.

## HOW ARE TEMPORARY & MOBILE FOOD BUSINESSES DEFINED?

### Temporary food business

A business that sells food from a structure erected and dismantled, or removed from the site, after an event. This includes stalls, tents or other temporary structures at markets, festivals, fetes and other short-term events.

### Mobile food business

A vehicle that moves from site to site, selling food. This includes vans, caravans and carts that undertake roadside vending or transient vehicles like ice-cream trucks.

### Food vending machines

These are treated like a food premises. The owner of the business that sells food from the machine must register the machine, not the proprietor of the premises where the machine is located.

### Water transport vehicles

Vehicles that are used to transport water that is sold for human consumption, or that is used to prepare food, make ice for consumption or preserve unpackaged food. These are usually treated the same as mobile food businesses.

## WHEN WILL STREATRADER BE AVAILABLE?

*Streatrader* will go live in September 2012.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about *Streatrader* please email [streatrader@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:streatrader@health.vic.gov.au)