



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

- 3 JUL 2017

Mr Neil Laurie
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Queensland Parliamentary Service
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I write in response to your letter regarding petitions 2771-17 and 2734-17, tabled in Parliament on 13 June 2017, in relation to dogs in outdoor dining areas. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The provisions which allow dogs in outdoor dining areas sits within the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code). The Code is given effect in each jurisdiction via adoption into relevant food legislation. The Code ensures national food safety requirements are adopted equivalently across Australia.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is a statutory authority in the Australian Government Health portfolio and is responsible for the development of Standards in the Code and assessing applications for amendment to the Code. Amendments made to the Code are automatically adopted under the Queensland *Food Act 2006*.

Prior to the FSANZ Board approving amendments to the Code allowing dogs in outdoor dining areas, FSANZ undertook a risk assessment and found that the risk of transmission of foodborne disease from companion dogs to humans in outdoor dining settings is very low to negligible.

Anyone may apply to FSANZ to amend the Code, regardless whether an individual, organisation or a company. Further information in relation to making a submission can be obtained from www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/default.aspx.

The *Food Act 2006* devolves the administration and enforcement of licensed food businesses including provisions relating to dogs in outdoor dining areas to local government. Any concerns regarding food businesses not complying with requirements of the *Food Act 2006* should be referred directly to the relevant local government where the food business is located.

It should be noted the food business decides whether or not to allow a dog, other than an assistance dog, to be present in an outdoor dining area. Food businesses may exclude a dog that is not an assistance dog for any reason.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services