Food safety regulation in Queensland

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the health and safety of all Queenslanders. An important aspect of health protection involves the provision of a safe food supply. All Queenslanders should be able to feel confident that the food they purchase is safe for consumption.

Queensland uses an integrated approach to food safety management. Along with local governments, there are three Queensland Government agencies with roles in food safety management, which work together seamlessly to ensure a high standard of food safety in the production and supply of food from paddock to plate.

Each agency is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of food safety legislation. The diagram below provides an overview of the agencies and their involvement in the food regulation system.

### Food Safety Regulation Agencies in Queensland

#### Primary Production
- Stock Act 1915
- Cropping, livestock and aquaculture
- Biosecurity Queensland – agricultural and veterinary chemical (AGVET) residue and contaminant issues

#### Processing
- Food Production (Safety) Act 2000
- Regulation of primary production and processing of meat, dairy, eggs and seafood items for wholesale
- Retail and transportation of meat and meat products

#### Manufacturing / Retail
- Food Act 2006
- Licensing and regulation of manufacturers, retailers and food service
- Regulation of food labelling and composition

### Queensland Health

Queensland Health administers the Food Act 2006 and is responsible for investigating:
- food-borne illness
- foreign matter in food
- food composition
labelling of food products
misleading conduct by food businesses
food safety issues in State Government food businesses

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) administers the Stock Act 1915 and is responsible for primary production in Queensland. DEEDI is responsible for:
- identifying, moving and selling of livestock
- cropping
- aquaculture
- biosecurity
- investigating residue and contamination issues relating to agricultural and veterinary chemicals

Safe Food Production Queensland
Safe Food Production Queensland administers the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000 and is responsible for ensuring safety in the processing and manufacturing of primary products. This includes regulating:
- meat production and processing
- dairy production and processing
- egg production and processing
- seafood production and processing

In addition to this, Safe Food Production Queensland also overseas food safety of meat and meat products during transportation and at retail.

Local governments
Local governments administer those parts of the Food Act 2006 relating to licensed food businesses. This includes regulating:
- food safety in retail premises, manufacturers and wholesale and retail distribution centres
- food safety in community organisations and events

Examples of food businesses which local governments regulate include:
- restaurants, cafes and takeaway food shops
- bakeries
- fruit and vegetable shops processing (cutting) fruit and vegetables
- delicatessens
- mobile food vehicles selling unpackaged food
- child care centres, aged care facilities and private hospitals
- private school canteens
- food manufacturers

For further information
Queensland Health has a variety of fact sheets with detailed information on food safety. Fact sheets can be accessed from the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety.

For further information on Queensland Health’s roles and responsibilities, contact your local Queensland Health Public Health Unit as listed on page 3.
For further information in relation to DEEDI’s functions, call 13 25 23, 8am to 6pm Monday to Wednesday and Friday or 9am to 6pm on Thursday. Alternatively visit their website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au.

For further information on the accreditation of primary production activities under the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, contact Safe Food Production Queensland on 1800 300 815 or via www.safefood.qld.gov.au.

Contact details for local governments can be found at www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/local-government-directory or your local White Pages.

**Queensland Health Public Health Units**

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<tr>
<th>Public Health Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane Northside</td>
<td>3624 1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brisbane Southside</td>
<td>3000 9148</td>
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<td>4150 2780</td>
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<td>4226 5555</td>
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<td>5668 3700</td>
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<td>5409 6600</td>
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<td>Toowoomba/Darling Downs</td>
<td>4631 9888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>4753 9000</td>
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