



MEDIA RELEASE

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## Scores on Doors

Diners in the Mid-Western Region will be among the first to benefit from the rollout of the new Scores on Doors program, a state-wide rating system designed to help people better understand the food safety standard that individual food outlets have reached.

Council Health Officers will give each of the 150 local food outlets a star rating depending on how well the business undertakes food safety practises. The businesses who best comply with requirements of the Food Safety Standards Code will receive a 5 star rating.

"After food businesses have been inspected and rated, they will get a certificate to display which shows how many stars they have achieved" said Tim O'Reilly, Manager of Health and Building, Mid-Western Regional Council.

"Now the whole community will know how local food businesses perform, which was something that was previously only known to Council. In addition to providing extra transparency to consumers it also gives recognition to food businesses that have a good food safety performance record."

The Scores on Doors program is set to commence during the next round of annual food shop inspections which begin this week.

"This is a great marketing tool for food businesses. If they can display a certificate that gives them five stars for cleanliness and hygiene, there are huge opportunities for them to attract more customers.

"The certificates are branded by the NSW Food Authority and will soon be well recognised around the state. It'll be something that locals and tourists will be looking for and take into consideration when they're deciding where to eat out.

"If local food businesses would like to be the first to display their certificate, they can contact Council and let us know that they're ready for a inspecting and rating. We have the certificates here, ready to go!

"We will be inspecting every one of the 150 registered food premises in the region over the next 12 months, including cafes, hotels, corner stores, supermarkets and fast food outlets," Mr O'Reilly said.

Inspection fees start at \$100 for a new registration, and go up to \$225 for a reinspection due to unhygienic conditions. Any business that is subject to enforcement action is ineligible to receive a certificate.

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