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Phone 0800 00 83 33



GUIDANCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) SERVICES

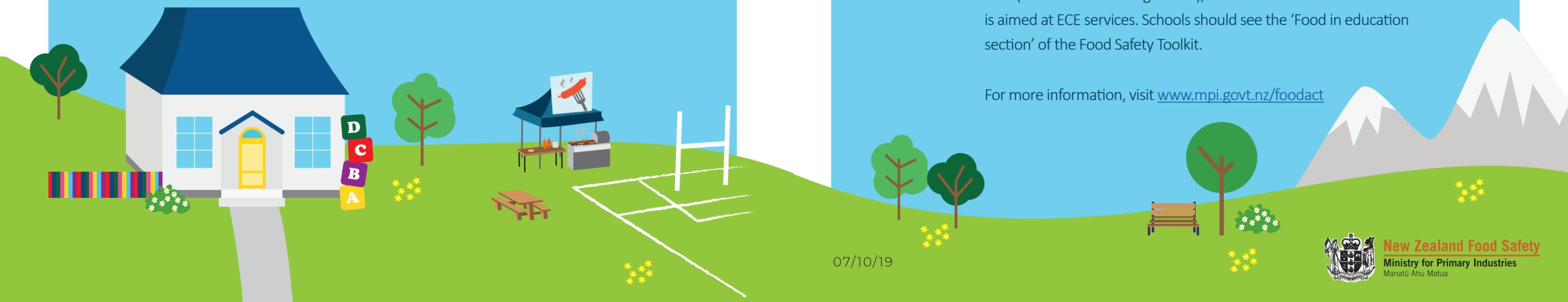
What does the Food Act mean for me?

All early childhood education (ECE) service providers must make sure the food they serve is safe and suitable. The Food Act 2014 applies to all food for sale. This includes the food sold by ECE services as part of an inclusive service.

Many ECE services receive government funding. If you operate solely on government funding, and there is no charge to attend, then there is no sale of food. This means your service is outside the scope of the Food Act, and you do not need to register. However some ECEs may need to register under a National Programme.

Use the [My Food Rules tool](#) to find out if you need to register, who with (and under which legislation), and how to do it. This booklet is aimed at ECE services. Schools should see the 'Food in education section' of the Food Safety Toolkit.

For more information, visit www.mpi.govt.nz/foodact



What does the Food Act mean for ECE service providers?



CURRICULUM CATERING

The education provider purchases ingredients, and prepares and serves food with children participating as part of the curriculum (e.g. preparing, handling, serving food). This could range from crackers and marmite through to cakes, scones, and meals

No registration required for the curriculum food. Curriculum would also include tuition on food safety and suitability. Trade in food is not the purpose of the curriculum exercise.



THE EDUCATION PROVIDER PURCHASES FOOD. VOLUNTEERS PREPARE AND SERVE MEALS TO CHILDREN ATTENDING

Volunteers prepare and serve meals to children attending e.g. breakfasts (other than minimally handled foods), lunches such as soups, pies, salads, sushi.

Food is 'deemed' for sale as part of the education service provided.

If the activity is a one-off event it is not required to operate with a National Programme. Otherwise, National Programme 2 required.



MEALS PROVIDED BY CATERER

The education provider purchases and serves (i.e. heats up) meals that have been prepared by a registered catering business.

Food is deemed for 'sale' as part of the education service provided.

The caterer is required to operate with a food control plan.

If a early childhood education centre or kōhanga reo reheats and serves the food, it is required to operate under a National Programme 2.



FESTIVAL OR EVENT

- Food sold by local traders e.g. Mr Whippy.
- Cake stall, homemade jam stall run by parents.
- Fundraiser food stall.

Businesses (local traders) need to operate under a food control plan or national programme depending on type/ scope of food.

No registration required for the other (non-business) stalls if it is a one-off event or for fundraising up to 20 times in a calendar year.



MEALS – FOOD DONATED

Outside organisations donate food, volunteers prepare and serve meals to children attending.

Food is for sale as part of the education service provided.

National Programme 2 required.

THE EDUCATION PROVIDER PURCHASES, PREPARES AND SERVES FOOD TO CHILDREN ATTENDING:



SHARED LUNCH

Children/whanau contribute food that the education service prepares and serves to all children attending. No sale of the food is taking place.

No registration is required.



LUNCH BOX

Children bring their own food to eat. The education service provider may or may not handle (i.e. heat up) and serve. No sale of the food is taking place.

No registration is required.



FUNDRAISERS

e.g sausage sizzle

Provided by team members, parents, volunteers etc.

No registration required if fundraising for a charitable purpose up to 20 times in a calendar year.



MINIMAL HANDLING

e.g. fruit, manufacturer-produced food such as crackers and marmite, breakfast cereal, biscuits, muffins, scones, pikelets, butter, jam, honey, etc. e.g. breakfast club, after school club.

No registration is required.



MAKES FOOD

e.g. meals, sandwiches and filled rolls. Food is for sale - either as part of the education service provided, or as cash sales.

National Programme 2 required.



HANDLES MANUFACTURED PRE-PREPARED FOOD

e.g. reheats pies, scoops ice cream, and re-packages lollies. Food is for sale - either as part of the education service provided, or as cash sales.

National Programme 2 required.