



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ian Macdonald

**Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development**

Extra protection from foodborne illness for sick and elderly

Hospitals and nursing homes in NSW are responding well to laws that protect the sick and elderly in care from food poisoning, Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said today.

Over the past 10 weeks audits have been conducted at the State's public and private hospitals and nursing homes to ensure they are complying with requirements.

"The elderly and the sick are more susceptible to the debilitating effects of food poisoning - so these laws provide important protection to our most vulnerable citizens," Mr Macdonald said.

"A thorough audit of hospitals and nursing homes is underway, to ensure these important laws are being complied with.

"Over 1,200 hospitals and nursing homes are now licensed with the Food Authority, and so far thorough audits have been conducted at 81 facilities.

"None of the facilities audited so far have received penalty notices or prohibition orders for issues that may have led to a threat to public health."

The NSW Government last year introduced the Vulnerable Persons Food Safety Scheme and businesses had until March to comply with the new laws.

As part of the new laws, hospitals and aged care facilities must:

- Have mandatory food safety programs in place, governing how food is handled, prepared, stored and transported;
- Be licensed with the Food Authority; and
- Be subject to regular safety audits.

"It is very early days, but it is encouraging to see hospitals and nursing homes are working to accommodate these new laws, that further protect the sick and elderly," Mr Macdonald said.