

**Title: Food operators get “Serious about Food Safety”**

This Media Release has been prepared by  
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Consumers can now look out for a new window sticker displayed at businesses who are taking part in a new, updated food safety system.



The New Zealand Food Safety Authority has developed a ‘Food Control Plan’ to help food businesses better manage their food safety risks and meet their legal obligations. The plan is developed to be flexible and allow more innovation. At this stage Food Control Plans are voluntary but if the proposed Food Act is passed, they will become mandatory for most food businesses.

Operators with approved Food Control Plans must demonstrate good practices in all areas of their processes, including record keeping.

The plan is supported by the Environmental Health Officers who have been trained in the new system and are available to offer guidance and support to businesses wishing to take part in the voluntary implementation programme Food Control Plan (VIP). All plans are verified regularly to ensure that they are being followed properly.

“Chatters Coffee shop at Highfield Mall is the first business in Timaru to sign up for the new system and 20 more are on their way” says Environmental Health Officer, Annette Davidson.

Consumers can now identify a business with an approved food control plan by the new ‘Serious about Food Safety’ sticker displayed in the window. Some businesses might also offer a brochure that explains Food Control Plans in detail.

The Council's Environmental Health Officers are really pleased with the level of interest Timaru food operators have shown in Food Control Plans. "It shows that they're really committed to providing the safest food possible to their customers".

To celebrate the Chatters Coffee Bar being the first in Timaru to go through the process, Timaru Mayor Janie Annear presented owners Terry and Dorothy Armer with their certificates on Tuesday.

"We knew it was going to come into law anyway, so we wanted to take advantage of the assistance offered by the Environmental Health Officers. The new regulations make it easier for us and the staff to know we're all doing things the right way", says Dorothy Armer.

**ENDS**



Chatter Coffee Bar owners Dorothy (left) with Terry Armer, with manager Rachel Shields, receive Food Control Plan certificates from Janie Annear and Environmental Health Officer, Annette Davidson.

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