

FACT SHEET

Starting a Home-Based Food Business



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Who Needs a Home-Based Food Licence?

Businesses that handle food for sale may be required to hold a food business licence regardless of the frequency or scale of operation. In some circumstances domestic premises may be granted a home-based food business licence, including:

- Preparation of food for sale at a market, fete or via social media;
- Bed and breakfast accommodation;
- Motel kitchens that also serve as kitchens for owners/on-site managers.

Licence Exemptions

Some home-based businesses do not require a licence, including

- Making food to give to a charity e.g., donating cakes to a fundraising cake sale
- Family day care operations
- Student boarding accommodation
- Individual in-home support services

Even if you do not require a licence, you still have an obligation under the *Food Act 2006* and the *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code* to ensure that the food for sale is safe and suitable for consumption.

Application Requirements

To obtain a licence you must submit an 'Application for Food Business Licence' to Council for assessment, together with:

- Application fees
- Relevant plans
- Food Safety Supervisor nomination and evidence of qualifications

A copy of *Design and fit-out guide for home-based businesses* and food safety supervisor requirements are available on the Banana Shire Council website link located below under [More Information](#).

Other Requirements

Water quality

If you are not on a reticulated water supply, you may need to undertake treatment of your water supply to ensure that it is potable.

Development approval

A home-based business must comply with the requirements of the *Banana Shire Council's Planning Scheme*. Unless development approval has been obtained for more extensive activities, the operation of a home-based business in most residential zones must comply with the following:

1. Operating for a maximum of 25 hours in any week between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Saturday;
2. Only 1 non-resident employee on site at any one time
3. Max. gross floor area 50m²
4. No delivery vehicles greater than 2.5t rigid
5. Signs do not exceed 1m² in area
6. There is no:
 - (a) sale of any goods from the premises other than those manufactured or serviced on the site;
 - (b) hiring out of materials, goods, appliances or vehicles;
 - (c) display of goods visible from outside the dwelling;
 - (d) re-fuelling of vehicles; or
 - (e) storage of chemicals, gases or other hazardous materials.

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Building, Plumbing and Drainage approval

Installing or altering plumbing and drainage, or construction or renovation of buildings may require Council approval. The discharge of trade waste may also require a permit and grease trap.

More Information

Fact sheets, application forms and fees and charges are available on Council's website:

www.banana.qld.gov.au/council-services/food.

Extensive resources to determine when a licence is required and to assist you in starting and running a food business can be found at the Food Pantry website:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/food-pantry> including a specific [Home-based Food Businesses](#) page.

Contact Council's Environmental Health Team for further information or to book a pre-lodgment inspection.

How can you contact us?

online, visit www.banana.qld.gov.au
click on 'Contact us'



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