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20 September 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022010963

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 24 August 2022. You requested:

My request concerns the public safety requirements for sanitation equipment in registered premises such as cafes, restaurants and rest homes which are in place to limit the spread of disease through personal items such as dishes, cups and clothes that are washed in equipment that shares its operating space and cleaning or drying media such as water or air between the items.

Currently there is a requirement for premises of this type to have where appropriate installed dishwashing equipment that can maintain a regulated temperature for a regulated minimum period of time to ensure that pathogens that can be transmitted through water or air are killed to a reasonable degree to prevent the spread of disease through the use of common equipment that shares water or air in the course of sanitising the items.

Is there currently any similar requirement for clothes drying equipment used in registered premises to maintain a specific air temperature for a specific time period in order to prevent the spread of disease through clothing being washed in shared equipment using shared water supplies.

We have interpreted your request for clothes drying equipment requirements in 'registered premises' as a reference to rest homes. If you would like more information about cafes, restaurant and other premises, you may wish to seek information from the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

There is no prescribed or specific air temperature or time period for clothes drying equipment requirements for rest homes in the Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard NZS 8134:2021 (Ngā Paerewa).

However, aged residential care (ARC) providers are required to be certified under the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 and to meet Ngā paerewa health and disability standard NZS 8134:2021 (Ngā Paerewa). Ngā Paerewa includes a section on infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship requirements (section 5 of Ngā Paerewa). ARC providers are audited against Ngā Paerewa on a regular basis.

As part of the audit, auditors check laundry services to ensure they are meeting the infection control section.

For further information about Ngā Paerewa please see the link to Manatū Hauora's website: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/certification-health-care-services/services-standard and to view them on the Standards New Zealand website: www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-81342021/.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Ruihua Gu
Acting Group Manager
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