

## FOOD DONATION POLICY

The following advice is aimed at educating anyone who periodically or regularly donates to our rest home. Donated food needs to be safe and suitable for human consumption, according to MPI guidelines at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz). Provided the food was safe and suitable when it was donated and came with any information needed to keep it safe and suitable, the donor is protected from civil or criminal liability under the Food Act 2014.

### Food **ACCEPTED**

- Non-perishable food items like tea bags, peanut butter, healthy snacks, granola bars, sports drinks, chocolates, biscuits, canned vegetables or fruit, and powdered milk.
- Muesli, oats, bread
- Fresh home baking (NO cream) in clean, covered containers dated or plastic bags; the items are subject to inspection.
- Washed vegetables (carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins and similar)
- Washed fruit (e.g. apples, pears and similar)

### Food **NOT** accepted:

- High-risk foods such as meat, poultry, all seafood (e.g. shellfish, whitebait, oysters, prawns, fish and similar), milk, cream, and sandwiches will not be accepted unless they are from a certified food supplier.
- We do not accept fresh meat (e.g. home kill) or any frozen food.
- Hot foods will not be accepted either.
- Food is unsafe if it is likely to cause harm to the person eating it.
- Food is unsuitable if it is contaminated, deteriorated, in a condition that affects its intended use, or if people can't tell what is in it.

The following advice will help you make sure your food is safe and suitable. Particular care needs to be taken when donating foods that need temperature control and/or have a 'Use-by' date.

**Key points to note:**

- Food subject to recall for safety reasons must not be donated.
- Food marked with a 'Use-by' date must either be used or thrown away by that date. This is because it may be unsafe to eat after this date, even though spoilage may not be visible. In addition, nutrients may become unstable after the expiry of the 'Use-by' date, which may have an adverse effect on the health of people who are already ill.
- Food that has passed its 'Use-by' date must not be donated.
- Where donated food will be safe to eat for only a limited time, please inform us of the time limit
- Inform our team about any food in a donation that requires special handling or storage (e.g. refrigeration).
- Packaging should completely enclose donated food. Do not donate any food that has been exposed and may have become contaminated.
- Food must be clear of mould or slime or other signs of spoilage, e.g. packaging inflated by spoilage gasses.
- Cans that are excessively rusty have damaged seams or 'spring' at the end, or are leaking should not be donated.

**When donating food:**

- Work closely with the rest home team to identify:
  - The range of foods that are most useful and can be safely handled if you are in doubt.
  - If reusing boxes and packaging, ensure that these have not been used for anything other than food and have been made clean and hygienic.
  - Keep food items separated from non-food items, i.e., toiletries.

Additional information about food safety can be found on the MPI website at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz).

All food is to be checked on arrival by Cook or Manager.

If you have any specific food safety questions not covered by the available advice, please feel free to contact our rest home team.