

# PEST CONTROL NEWSLETTER

Number 26

July 2009

**This newsletter informs licensed pest control operators (PCOs) about events that affect their industry.**

It is published quarterly by the Pest Control Program of the Department of Human Services (the program).

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**PCOs are reminded that it is an offence to use or permit any other person to use pesticides for commercial gain in Victoria without an appropriate licence. Persons may be liable to be prosecuted under section 108C of the Health Act 1958 if this requirement is breached.**

## Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the PH&W Act) will replace the Health Act 1958 on 1 January 2010. For further information, please refer to the News Bulletin enclosed. The PH&W Act and the regulations made under it will now contain the licensing requirements for PCOs.

To outline the changes to occur in the PCO licensing system under the new legislation and provide advice on the RIS process, the Pest Control Program will be conducting a series of RIS Roadshows during August 2009.

These free information sessions will be held at various locations throughout the state, and will run for approximately two hours. Light refreshments will be provided. The Pest Control Program is seeking expressions of interest from PCOs to assist with the organisation of the roadshow.

If you are interested in attending a workshop near you, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Pest Control Program in the reply paid envelope by Friday 31 July 2009.

## NEW LICENCE FEES FROM 1 JULY 2009

Licence fees increase annually in line with the Reserve Bank's Consumer Price Index. From 1 July 2009 licence fees will be as follows:

- technician licence \$528.40 (three-year licence)
- trainee licence \$175.40 (one-year licence)
- interstate operator licence \$57.30 (three-year licence)

If your licence is due for renewal around this time, please ensure that you have specified the correct amount prior to submitting a cheque or money order for payment.

## ADVICE TO CLIENTS

PCOs have a wealth of knowledge about pests and the pesticides used to treat them. Clients generally have limited experience and may feel uneasy about the use of pesticides in their home. The PCO is their main source of information and advice.

Important information for PCOs to provide to clients include:

- Pre-treatment precautions to minimise exposure such as ensuring food, clothes, toys, toothbrushes, bedding, towels, vegetable gardens, barbecues, pet bowls, fish ponds, clotheslines and cooking utensils are covered or removed from the area to be treated and relocating pets
- Post-treatment precautions to minimise exposure such as vacating premises while the pesticide is mixed and applied, and until the pesticide is dry (generally four to six hours), cleaning food preparation areas, ventilating the house
- the full name of the pesticides to be used their toxicity rating and any potential health risks associated with its use
- The locations or areas where the pesticides will be applied
- the method of application
- Any non-chemical measures for the client to take to prevent infestations for example removing food scraps, sealing cracks and crevices, fixing leaks.

If you have any queries relating to the health effects of pesticides please contact the Pest Control program or refer to the public information brochures *Commercial Pesticides, Are you thinking of using a pest control service?* and *Household Pesticides* available on the pest control licensing website.

### BRUSH(TAIL) WITH THE LAW

A 21 year old woman was arrested in Hamilton, New Zealand, after she kicked in the door of her ex-boyfriend's home, then belted him because of a custody dispute over their pet possum.

### FAQS – MOSQUITOES – DENGUE FEVER

*Q – I have heard Dengue fever mentioned in the press lately. What is Dengue fever?*

A – Dengue fever is a viral disease spread by mosquitoes. Disease occurs in many tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world including Queensland.

*Q – Is the disease spread by all mosquitoes?*

A – In Australia the *Aedes aegypti* species of mosquito is able to spread Dengue fever. Once the mosquito has had a blood meal from an infected individual, the virus can then be spread.

*Q – Has there been any cases of Dengue fever infections in Victoria?*

A – No. The disease has been transmitted in coastal and inland Queensland with the potential for *Aedes aegypti* to establish itself in other areas such as Northern Territory, Western Australia South-east Queensland and New South Wales.

*Q – What measures should I take to avoid contracting mosquito borne diseases?*

A – When visiting areas where Dengue fever is problematic, protect yourself from mosquitoes by wearing repellent which contains DEET, wear loose long sleeved clothing, screen windows and doors, and most importantly remove or turn over any vessels that can harbour standing water to prevent mosquito larval development. These are the most effective means in reducing mosquito numbers.

### NEW ON THE PEST CONTROL LICENSING WEBSITE

The following pest control publications have been updated and placed on the website for download:

- *Are you thinking of using a pest control service? Making the right choice* brochure
- Technical note number two *Cockroaches*

- Technical note number four *Managing spills & pesticide disposal*
- Technical note number thirteen *Interpreting Material Safety Data Sheets*

### ENQUIRIES

Please direct enquiries regarding information contained in this newsletter to:

Department of Human Services  
Pest Control Program  
GPO Box 4057  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Phone: 1300 887 090

Fax: 1300 881 765

Email: [pestcontrol@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:pestcontrol@dhs.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pestcontrol)

### SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

The program will consider articles submitted for inclusion in this newsletter. These must be of a non-commercial nature and limited to 150 words in length.

The information and views expressed in such articles represent those of the author and do not in any way reflect the views of the department.

The program reserves the right of refusal and the right to edit articles submitted.

### NEW PUBLICATION FROM DPI FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY IN AGRICULTURE

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has produced new school based resources that focus on agricultural and veterinary chemical safety.

The resources aim to increase awareness of the dangers in using chemicals as a risk to health, the environment and animal welfare. The resources are available online and can be downloaded from the LandLearn website at: [www.landlearn.net.au](http://www.landlearn.net.au)

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