



# Consultation summary

## Proposal to repeal the *Hairdressing Establishment Regulations 1972*

In January 2016 the Environmental Health Directorate of the WA Department of Health (DOH) released a discussion paper which discussed a proposal to repeal the *Hairdressing Establishment Regulations 1971* (the regulations) and replace with a guideline for the hairdressing and barber industry. To support the proposal a draft guideline was provided with the consultation process, as well a link to an online survey.

### Who was consulted?

The following communication channels were used to promote and seek feedback on the review:

- Letters send to all WA local governments with details of the review.
- Emails circulated to subscribers of the environmental health electronic mailbox (400 subscribers)
- Emails circulated to generic local government email addresses
- The then Department of Commerce

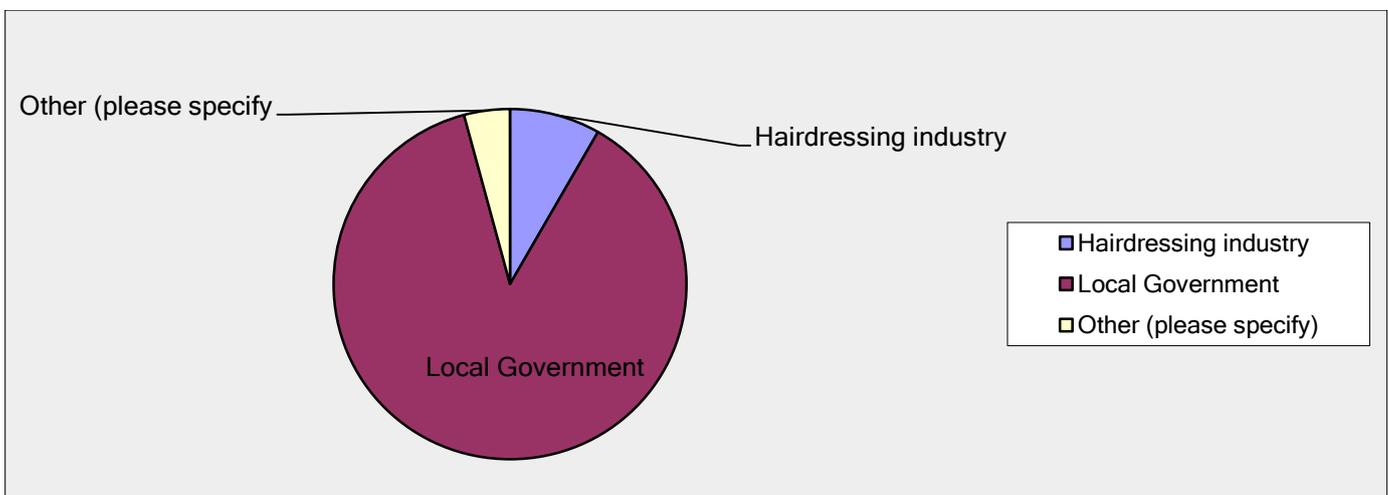
The DOH did not have access to a central database of registered hairdressing businesses, and requested Local Government and other agencies to assist with the promotion of the review to businesses registered in their area.

Social media was also utilised as a key communication tool to help to promote the repeal and the DOH facebook page was used to promote the review.

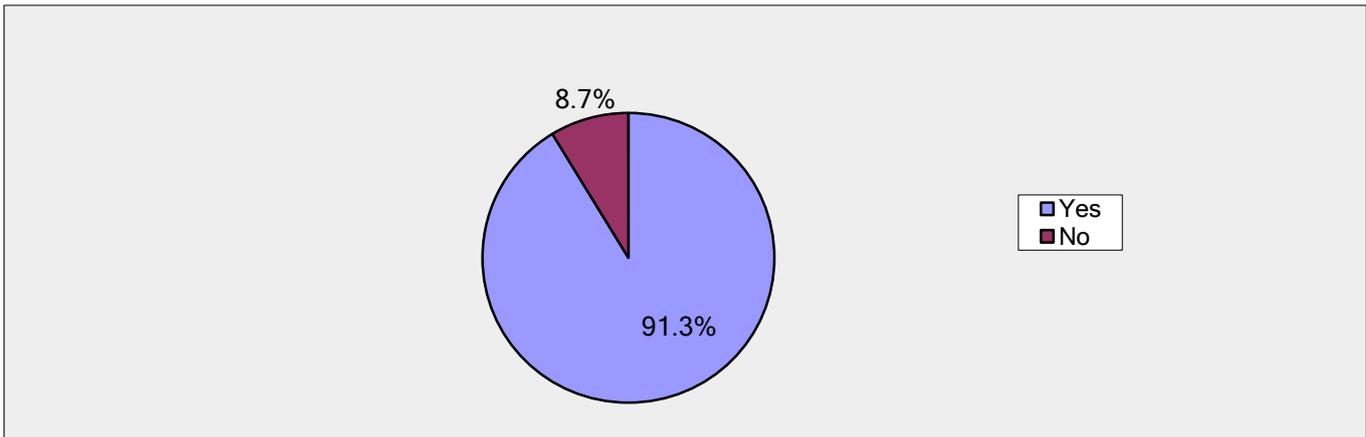
### Results

A total of 24 people responded to the survey. Stakeholders were asked to complete three questions.

#### Question 1 – Who do you represent?



**Question 2 – Do you agree with the proposal to repeal the Hairdressing Establishment Regulations 1972?**



**Question 3: Do you have any comments you would like to make related to the proposed Regulation repeal? Please detail these below.**

As long as the guidelines are backed up with legislation allowing officers to effectively police the requirements I think it is a good move and will allow easy amendments.
I agree as we have very few problems with hairdressers.
As the new guidelines will not be provided with any enforcement power, it will make it extremely difficult for local government to respond to any complaints regarding hairdressers. We could not require the physical modifications or changes to procedures. However, there will still be an expectation for local government to respond to, and investigate complaints on hairdressing operations. If it is felt that a guideline is necessary to protect public health, then it is suggested that the guideline is adopted under legislation and is therefore enforceable.
It is felt that the proposed guidance document should be made into an enforceable code of practice under a head of power whether that be some form of hairdressing regulations or incorporated with the skin penetration regulations. With non-enforceable guidance material standards in the hairdressing industry will decline and even if this is not immediate why leave a legacy for generations to come where standards decline to the point that regulation is again required when it could be amended and left in place. While regular or annual inspections of these premises may not be required the ability to respond to complaints and enforce certain minimum standards is required otherwise there is no point local government even taking a complaint regarding a hairdressing premises.
The Department of Commerce has no objection to the proposed repeal of the regulations, as they are outdated and overly prescriptive for industry.
The proposal is long overdue. It is foreseen that the Shire of Mundaring would only respond on a complaints basis. What is not clear is where the new guideline is proposed to sit (i.e. is it simply a free floating guideline that we are supposed to point people towards and ask that they read it?)
It's amazing that it has taken so long to repeal these out-dated regulations!
All staff should have some education with respect to blood spills or skin penetration requirements, perhaps an online course similar to the I'm Alert Food Safety Course.
Hairdressers and employees should have to complete a skin penetration and blood spill 2 day course prior to working in the establishment.
Just have to ensure the hairdressers, apprentices and workers understand the importance of skin penetration issues.
The repeal of these Health Regulations are acceptable based on their outdated requirements and lack of compliance and enforcement by EHO's in a consistent manner. The hairdressing

and barber industry does need to be more responsible for their practices relating to the cleaning practices for instruments between clients and to better regulate the reuse of equipment on consecutive clients which is not practiced as observed in the retail industry over a long period.

In any case each local government will likely retain a list of hairdressers should circumstances require that the EHO needs to communicate with hairdressers in the local government for health promotion purposes. LGs will decide if it is necessary to inspect these premises and on what frequency or only if a complaint is received from the public.

Support the repeal

it will be nice to see the regulations consigned to the dust bin. Finally, it seems there is an impetus to repeal out-dated legislations. Keep it coming

June 2016.

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