

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Takeaway food retailing industry - Young workers

The takeaway food industry is a very big employer of young workers. Specific factors to consider in relation to young workers include:

- Physical characteristics (manual handling poses a problem as their muscle strength is still developing)
- General behaviour and maturity
- Work experience and training
- Confidence to raise issues with their employer or supervisor
- Ability to make decisions about their safety and the safety of others around them
- Ability to cope with unexpected or stressful situations (e.g. aggression from customers)

Possible solutions

- Train workers about how to complete all tasks safely (induction training when they start and ongoing training)
- Buddy young workers up with experienced workers so skills, knowledge and experience can be passed onto them
- Closely supervise young workers until they can demonstrate that they can work safely
- Make sure young workers know how to report unsafe conditions and that they feel comfortable to do this
- Make sure young workers aren't bullied by other staff members (including initiations, practical jokes etc)
- Try to avoid having young workers close the business and work alone at night. If they are completing these tasks, ensure they have adequate training and resources to do so.

For more information on workplace health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

© The State of Queensland (Department of Justice and Attorney-General) 2011

Copyright protects this document. The State of Queensland has no objection to this material being reproduced, but asserts its right to be recognised as author of the original material and the right to have the material unaltered.

The material presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and the reader should not rely on it. The Queensland Government disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including, without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Information guide: Takeaway food retailing industry series – Young workers
PN10296 Version 2. Last updated 04 February 2010.