
Cloth materials regulation review

Overview

The key focus of this review is to obtain feedback on the most effective option for managing public health risks associated with cloth materials in Western Australia.

Please read the Discussion Paper entitled **Managing the public health risks of cloth materials in Western Australia** <user_uploads/cloth-materials-discussion-paper-final-1.pdf> , before completing this survey.

The *Health (Cloth Materials) Regulations 1985* encapsulate a variety of materials that may present a fomite transmission of disease. A fomite is any nonliving object or substance capable of carrying infectious organisms, such as viruses or bacteria, and hence transferring them from one individual to another. Such materials include, but are not limited to the hire of/sale of second-hand items such as:

- clothing and costumes
- carpets and other soft floor coverings
- footwear including shoes (e.g. bowling shoes), ice skates, boots etc.
- head coverings including hats and headgear (e.g. helmets, hard hats)
- bedding and similar items including mattresses, pillows, upholstery and cushions
- wigs

The discussion paper outlines a number of future management options including:

- **Option A** – Retain the status quo, that is, replicate the current regulatory system as much as possible.
- **Option B** – Repeal the regulations and provide guidance notes. This is the DoH's preferred option.
- **Option C** – Replace with new, modernised regulations.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. There are 13 questions. You do not have to comment on all the questions, and can focus on those areas that are important to you.

Unless marked as confidential, all correspondence will be regarded as public documents and be made available on the Department of Health website or be viewed by members of the public on

request. If you wish for your response to remain confidential please check the box at the beginning of the survey.

You can read the survey questions here prior to completing the online survey.

Why we are consulting

With the introduction of the *Public Health Act 2016* in WA, all public health regulations, including the *Health (Cloth Materials) Regulations 1985*, must be reviewed and either repealed or replaced with regulations compliant with the new regulatory framework.

You are welcome to provide additional feedback that may not be related to any of the questions or ideas for options that have not been considered.

Please explain the reasons behind your suggestions, and where possible evidence to support your views, estimates of any costs that may relate to the proposal, and examples of solutions.

Introduction

1 Would you like this response to be confidential?

Please select only one item

Yes No

2 What is your name?

Name (Required)

3 What is your email address?

Email (Required)

4 Please indicate who you represent?

(Required)

Please select only one item

Local government State government Industry representative
 Member of the public Other

5 What is the name of the organisation you represent? If you are a member of the public please type 'public'.

(Required)

6 Do you currently enforce the Health (Cloth Materials) Regulations 1985?

(Required)

Please select only one item

Yes No (please go to Question 7)

If yes how many cloth material business do you inspect or manage?

How often do you inspect or manage?

Have you had any complaints in the last 10 years? If so, please provide details

Preferred option

The Discussion Paper entitled "Managing the public health risks associated with cloth materials in WA" has considered a number of options for the future management of cloth materials in WA including:

- **Option A** – Retain the status quo, that is, replicate the current regulatory system as much as possible.
- **Option B** – Repeal the regulations and provide guidance notes. This is the DoH's preferred option.
- **Option C** – Replace with new, modernised regulations.

7 Please indicate your preferred option for managing public health risks associated with cloth materials in WA, in order of 1 to 4. With 1 being your most preferred option, and 4 being your least preferred option.

	1	2	3	4
Option A: Retain status quo. No change to current system. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option B: No regulation. Public health risks can be managed by the general public health duty and a supporting guideline <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option C: Develop regulations for cloth materials in WA. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
None of these options <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8 Based on your answer to the previous question, please explain why this is your preferred option.

9 Do you have any suggestions for alternative options that have not been considered in the discussion paper? Please explain your ideas by providing examples of complaints, case studies, data or other useful evidence.

Guidance Notes

The DoH can publish guidance notes on any cloth material that may potentially to pose a public health risk. These guidance notes will provide information on best practice and are non binding.

10 If the industry is deregulated would you like the DoH to provide guidance notes?

Guidance Notes (Required)

Please select only one item

Yes No (please go to Question 13)

11 If you would prefer guidance notes to be made available, please advise on which areas you would like covered

Please select all that apply

- Sale of second-hand clothing Sale of second-hand mattresses
 Hire clothing and wigs Hire footwear (bowling shoes, ice skates etc.)
 Hire helmets

Other

12 Are there any other cloth materials that would benefit from guidance notes. Please explain the public health risks and/or reasons.

Additional comments

13 Do you have any other comments about controlling the public health risks related to cloth materials in WA?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide their comments on controlling public health risks related to cloth materials in Western Australia.