



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Reopened inquiry tables final report**

The reopened parliamentary inquiry into the closure of I Cook Foods has tabled its final report.

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee has made 14 findings and five recommendations.

The inquiry was reopened on 24 June 2021 after new allegations raised in the media conflicted with evidence received during the inquiry's initial investigations.

"The purpose of reopening the inquiry was to hear from new witnesses as well as from previous witnesses who gave evidence used in the first report," Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

The Committee held three further public hearings throughout August and September 2021.

"It was important to hear all parties' information relating to the new evidence and determine why there were contradictions in the evidence previously provided," Ms Patten said.

In examining the new evidence presented, the Committee also considered whether this directly conflicted with the findings and recommendations made in the previous report.

"After considering all the information provided, it is clear the previous findings and recommendations have not been invalidated or otherwise compromised," Ms Patten said.

The Committee has found that while Department of Health officials didn't deliberately mislead the Committee, the omission of some evidence ultimately led to the reopening of the inquiry.

"This inquiry is a timely reminder that witnesses—particularly officers of government departments—should be properly prepared when giving evidence to a parliamentary inquiry and to ensure that committees are made aware as soon as possible when new information comes to light," Ms Patten said.

The Committee has also made further recommendations to improve the processes of the Department of Health during food safety investigations.

The [final report](#) is available to read on the Committee's website.

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