

Accommodation Services

Q & A: Changes to Food Options for 2009

What does it mean for me?

In 2009 all residents will have the option of buying meals. Meals will not be charged as part of fees. If you're already paying a fully catered rate, you'll be able to keep some of that money, choose how you spend it and not pay for meals you don't actually eat. If you're not paying a catered rate, you'll now also be able to buy meals from the Food Hall or Café at a 'without markup' cost and well below what you'd pay elsewhere. In addition, everyone will now be able to buy basic household and food supplies on site.

Why are we changing how we provide food?

There were a number of issues with the old system:

- ◆ Escalating cost of providing meals
- ◆ High food wastage
- ◆ Feedback that residents weren't satisfied with service provided.

The new system will enable us to provide low cost, good value meals and also address all those issues.

What's changing?

The main changes will be:

- ◆ The existing dining hall will be changed to a Food Court and a Café open to all residents and their friends
- ◆ Much longer opening hours and meal times with a Café open all day and into the evening
- ◆ Pre-packed lunches available for purchase in the morning
- ◆ Fresh, healthy heat and serve meals available to take away and have at a time convenient for you
- ◆ Sale of basic food and household supplies
- ◆ A choice to buy only what you need and not pay for meals you miss
- ◆ All residents can self-cater when they want to.

What kinds of meals will be available?

A very wide range of options will be available to choose from throughout the day. We're developing this and welcome ideas. Other universities in the USA and UK are using similar models. These are some examples to expect in 2009:

- ◆ Soup and bread roll (\$1.35)
- ◆ Steak sandwich with chips (\$3.80)
- ◆ Spaghetti bolognese with garlic bread (\$2.30)
- ◆ Vegetable stack with pesto & rice (\$3.20)
- ◆ Ham, cheese and tomato roll (\$2.30)
- ◆ Chicken Schnitzel with salad (\$3.70)
- ◆ Stir fried hokkien noodles with Asian greens and steamed rice (\$2.30).

Who is eligible to buy meals?

All Accommodation Services residents will be able to buy meals from our Food Halls and Cafes.

Can I bring my friends?

Yes. Anyone can buy a meal or coffee and are welcome to use the dining facilities, but non-residents will pay a higher price for food, although this will still be generally lower than other food outlets.

How will this affect 2009 fees?

Fees for all residences have been re-costed so that they now more closely reflect actual costs for each accommodation type. (2009 Fee Schedule on reverse.)

What if I still want to cook for myself?

If you're going into an Apartment or Christ College next year, you'll still be able to cook for yourself as usual. We're also planning a shared kitchen for John Fisher College and will keep you informed on progress with that.

How will it work?

You can either pay by putting money on a card or paying cash over the counter when you make a purchase.

What about keeping meals if I've got a late lecture?

Heat and go meals will replace this and they'll be available on demand later in the evening, so now you can decide at the last minute to stay out.

What if I don't like the food?

Let us know. We will change the menu according to demand and feedback.

There are still a few issues such as formal dinners to be ironed out. Please give us thoughts on this and any other issues which you can see might affect you.

How do we contact AS further to raise issues?

There are several options:

1. Go to the Catering Committee meeting on Wednesday 1 October at 1pm in the Dining Hall.
2. Go to the website and use the email link
3. Contact Will Hohman by email: Will.Hohman@utas.edu.au
4. Drop a note into the Key Return box.

