Antiquated health regulations, such as barbers requiring certificates to confirm they do not have tuberculosis, are up for review as well as new laws to address today’s public health risks.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley encourages business owners and interested members of the public to provide their feedback on the new draft public and environmental health regulations to modernise the laws that protect public health and safety in the Territory.

“Our current regulations date back to the turn of the last century and are overdue for an overhaul,” Mrs Lambley said.

“These new regulations will address today’s public health risks and replace a range of antiquated regulations that deal with issues that are no longer relevant.

“This new set of regulations will also cut red tape by streamlining 309 regulatory provisions into just 84 under the Public and Environmental Health Act.”

The regulations include rules relating to mosquito control, wastewater management, commercial visitor accommodation, hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art.

“Staff and clients of beauty therapy and body art businesses will have greater protection against infection, including new minimum standards on hygiene and sanitation relating to skin penetration equipment and other articles used at these businesses,” Mrs Lambley said.

“These infection prevention measures will bring the Territory into line with the rest of Australia and are important given the potential impacts of blood borne diseases including hepatitis B and C.”

Guests of visitor accommodation will also be protected by requirements for changing of linen and towels, supply of drinking water facilities, a minimum standard of toilet and shower facilities and minimum floor area in bedrooms.

The guidelines will be made available on the Department of Health’s website to help businesses meet the new regulatory requirements.

Businesses and individuals are encouraged to view the regulations on the website and provide feedback. Public information sessions will be held in Alice Springs on Monday 9 December, and Darwin on Wednesday 11 December.

www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Legislation

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