

# Media release

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## DAIRY AUTHORITY CAUTIONS CONSUMERS

Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFSV) the independent authority to regulate dairy food safety issued advice today that dairy products labelled and sold for “cosmetic” purposes should be used for these purposes only and that the consumption of these products may be unsafe.

DFSV Chief Executive Officer Dr Anne Astin said that there are a number of dairy products labelled as “cosmetic” use which are being sold and promoted by some retailers and food markets as product which could be used for human consumption. This is clearly a concern from a food safety perspective.

‘The sale of these types of unpasteurised dairy product for human consumption is prohibited under Australian food laws. Pasteurisation is important as it involves heating the dairy product to a high temperature for a short time which kills or inactivates all pathogens such as *E.coli*, *Salmonella* and *Listeria*. Pasteurisation has little effect on the flavour or nutritional value of the milk.’ Dr Astin said.

‘It is important that the public are made aware that consuming these types of unpasteurised dairy product may cause illness particularly in pregnant women, young children, the elderly and people that have weakened immune systems. Furthermore, as they are labelled as being for “cosmetic” use we are unaware of the quality control systems and hygienic practices employed in their manufacture’ Dr Astin said.

Recently, Dairy Food Safety Victoria has undertaken microbiological analyses of some of these products and the results have indicated that they may have the potential to cause illness with high levels of *Coliforms*, *Staphylococci* and, in one product, the presence of *Listeria*. We will continue to monitor these types of products being sold on the market so that the reputation of the Victorian dairy industry and consumer safety is assured.’ Dr Astin concluded.

**ENDS -**

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