

## The benefits of introducing smoke-free public places



### The state government has introduced tough tobacco laws in Queensland banning smoking in many public places.

This includes pubs, clubs, restaurants, outdoor dining areas, public transport waiting points, National parks, organised under 18 sporting events, major sporting facilities, building entrances, outdoor pedestrian malls, skate parks, public swimming pools, patrolled and artificial beaches and children's playgrounds.

From 1 September 2016, local government can make laws prohibiting smoking at outdoor public places in their local government area. A local law can only be made for a public place that is not already covered by state-wide tobacco laws. Queensland city councils that introduce smoke-free public places will not only help to protect the health of their local community, but will also improve amenity and safeguard the environment.

Click here for a summary of Queensland's tobacco laws [www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp)

### Benefits of implementing smoke-free public places

Creating smoke-free public places will have enormous benefits for the entire community as well as Council itself including:

- Improved health and wellbeing of community members
- Less litter from cigarette butts and cigarette packets
- Positive role modelling for young people
- Heightened awareness of the health risks of smoking and second-hand smoke
- Enhanced support for community members to cut down or quit
- Reduced fire risks

### Health impacts of second-hand smoke

Scientific evidence proves that there is no safe level of tobacco smoke exposure. It has been estimated that for every 10 smokers that die from tobacco related disease worldwide, one non-smoker will die from exposure to second-hand smoke. The more time you spend in the company of smokers, the more you are exposed to tobacco smoke and the greater your risk of disease.



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Smokers take a health risk every time they choose to light up. That is their decision and their choice. However approximately 85 per cent of Queenslanders choose not to smoke and regrettably their choice to be smoke-free is compromised when they must share their environment with a smoker. Second-hand smoke has negative effects for everyone: adults, children and for mother and baby during pregnancy.

Introducing smoke-free public places in your local government area will contribute to a reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke, educate the community on the dangers of smoking, support current smokers to quit and promote healthy lifestyle choices.



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