



Introducing smoke-free public places in your community can bring challenges around its practical implementation. Such difficulties are small in comparison to the significant benefits smoke-free public places will bring to the entire local community.

Community support

With 85.7 per cent of Queenslanders being non-smokers and 80 per cent of smokers wanting to quit, it can be assumed that the introduction of smoke-free public places would have significant community support. In order to ascertain a more definitive level of community support within your local jurisdiction, Council could undertake a survey or online poll. Both of these options are simple, affordable and will assist in steering the implementation of your smoke-free local laws.

Enforcement

The most common challenge in relation to the introduction of smoke-free public places is enforcement, with many councils expressing reluctance to introduce a policy that requires active policing. Encouragingly, councils who have introduced smoke-free public places have found it to be self-enforcing and have received good compliance from the public.

Signage

The cost of erecting signage can also prove a hurdle for councils. Costs can be kept to a minimum by utilising street/pavement markings or adding the international no smoking symbol to existing council signage.



Community education and awareness program

To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of a smoke-free local law it is recommended to firstly undertake a community-wide education and awareness program. This may include signage at nominated areas, on buses and taxis, a letter to all residents or the advertisement of the new laws on local media for a period of time.

Supporting smokers to quit

Introducing smoke-free public places may increase the number of smokers looking to quit within the community. If the council receives inquiries about quitting smoking, Cancer Council Queensland recommends people contact the Quitline on 13 QUIT (13 7848), seek support from their health professional or go to www.quitnow.gov.au for online information.

Common challenges in introducing smoke-free public places

Opposition from smokers

Whilst the Council may receive some negative feedback from smokers they can be reassured that their right to smoke has not been removed. The focus of introducing smoke-free public places is to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke in areas where people need to congregate together.



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