

# EXTENDED SMOKE-FREE PROTECTION AT SCHOOLS

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### Q SMOKE FREE ZONES

From 1 September 2023 the smoke-free area at schools also applies at all school carparks and continues to apply to all smoking products including electronic cigarettes.

#### Where does the ban apply?

Smoking is prohibited at public and private school facilities and within a 5-metre buffer zone, extending from the boundary of the school.

The new law extends the smoke-free protection to include all carparks provided for school communities. This includes carparks located on council land that are intended for school community use.

#### When does the ban apply?

The smoke-free requirements at and around schools always apply. This means school facilities are also smoke-free areas outside of school hours, on weekends and in school holiday periods.

The ban includes all persons at the school facility and buffer area including:

- students
- teaching staff
- parents of students
- other employees of the school
- visitors and persons providing a service or volunteering
- clubs and organisations accessing school facilities.

However, this does not apply to a person:

- in a buffer zone at residential premises or on residential land
- in the buffer zone at business premises
- travelling through the buffer zone area by vehicle.

#### What is a school facility?

Under the law **school facilities** include land where:

- state schools provide education,
- non-state schools provide primary, secondary or special education,
- state or non-state schools provide other educational instruction,
- carparks located adjacent to the school and provided exclusively for school use.

The following signs about the smoke-free requirements may be displayed at your school.

If you would like to order these signs to display at your school you can do so by calling (13 74 68), they are also available to download from Queensland Health here: <https://assetlibrary.health.qld.gov.au/web/64bad97bc5ede464/tobacco-signage>.



Examples of signs

SC2300466 V1 08/23

Quitline.

13 74 68



Queensland Government

## How will the ban be enforced?

There is strong community support for banning smoking at public places regularly attended by children. This means most people will comply with smoke-free requirements and typically encourage others to do so.

The laws are enforced by Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers, who can provide information and advice about the tobacco laws, respond to possible breaches and issue individuals with warnings and on-the-spot fines.

An on-the-spot fine of two penalty units<sup>1</sup> may apply to someone who smokes in a smoke-free area. The maximum court penalty is twenty penalty units.

To report a possible breach of the legislation, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or complete an online form at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/penalties/reporting-a-possible-breach-of-smoking-laws>

## Why does the ban exist?

The law protects children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke and vapour.

School facilities, including carparks are important places for healthy development and learning. The extended ban offers further protection for the entire school community – especially for children—from exposure to harmful second-hand smoke. Children's health is particularly affected by smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma.

The law also reduces adult role modelling of smoking and vaping around children and young people.

Children and young people are more likely to view the use of smoking products as socially acceptable when they regularly see people using them. Banning smoking and vaping in areas used by children and young people helps make the habit less visible and discourages young people from starting to smoke or vape.

## How can I find out more?

For more information about smoke-free laws in Queensland you can call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/smoking-laws>

## Would you like to quit smoking?

To improve your chance of quitting smoking or vaping for good, it is important to plan ahead. You may find these tips helpful:

### Get support

Quitline's trained counsellors are available seven days a week to help you through the process of quitting – call Quitline 13 QUIT (13 7848) for free information, practical assistance and support.

### Talk to your health professional

Discuss quitting smoking with your nurse, doctor or general practitioner and plan your quit strategy together.

### Consider using pharmacotherapy

Different products are available to help you quit smoking. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) includes patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers and mouth spray.

<sup>1</sup> As of 1 July 2023, the penalty unit amount is \$154.80. This amount increases annually. For more information on current penalty amounts call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

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