

Support for increasing smoke-free places

Queensland preventive health survey 2015

Summary

Queensland's smoking bans have been progressively strengthened over the past 15 years. Queensland was the first jurisdiction to introduce smoking bans for outdoor eating places and the state remains a leader in protecting the community from exposure to harmful second-hand smoke.

However, about 1 in 5 adults report that they are still frequently exposed to second-hand smoke in public places. In some local government areas (LGAs), as many as 1 in 3 adults reported such exposure. Exposure to second-hand smoke did not vary between smokers and non-smokers.

There was strong support among Queensland adults for smoking bans. Support ranged from 94% in favour of banning smoking at early childhood educational centres to 72% in favour of banning smoking at outdoor sporting grounds and fields, and in designated areas in higher education facilities. Smoking bans at public transport waiting areas (80%) and outdoor pedestrian malls (76%) were also supported by a large majority of adults. Non-smokers were about three times more likely to support smoking bans than smokers.

State-wide, about 1 in 10 adults opposed smoking bans in the particular public places surveyed. Even fewer objected to smoking bans in early childhood educational centres or public transport waiting areas.

Within the LGAs, the majority strongly supported more smoke-free areas. In all but six LGAs there was at least 70% support for bans in public transport waiting areas—the lowest level of support was 59%. Support for smoking bans in outdoor pedestrian malls was between 54–70% in 20 LGAs and 70% or higher in the rest. Smoking bans at child educational centres were supported by over 85% of adults in all LGAs. For adult educational facilities, support for bans ranged from 61–70% in 20 LGAs and was 70% or higher in the remaining 28 areas. Support varied most for outdoor sporting grounds and fields, ranging from 45–60% in five LGAs, from 60–70% in 23 LGAs, and was above 70% in the remaining 20 LGAs.

Context

Strong tobacco legislation, along with quit smoking mass media campaigns, smoking cessation services and targeted programs for priority populations, are proven elements of a multi-strategy approach for reducing smoking rates and shifting cultural attitudes towards being more 'smoke-free'.

This report summarises public attitudes toward smoking restrictions across Queensland.

Methods

Attitudes toward smoking restrictions were assessed as part of the 2015 Queensland preventive health survey. A total of 12,568 randomly selected adults participated and provided information about their:

- exposure to second-hand smoke in public places
- support for smoking restrictions in places such as public transport waiting areas, outdoor pedestrian malls, early childhood and adult educational centres, and outdoor sporting grounds and fields.

Results

Queensland (Table 1)

- One-fifth (22%) of adults were frequently exposed to second-hand smoke in public places and this did not vary by a person's smoking status.
- Adults predominantly support legislation extending smoking restrictions—at public transport waiting areas (80%), outdoor pedestrian malls (76%), child education centres (94%), adult education centres (72%) and outdoor sporting venues and grounds (72%).
- A small proportion of adults oppose smoking restrictions—at public transport waiting areas (8%), outdoor pedestrian malls (10%), child education centres (3%), adult education centres (12%) and outdoor sporting grounds and fields (10%).
- The odds that a ban in a particular setting was supported by a non-smoker was higher than for daily smokers— at public transport waiting areas (3.4 times higher), outdoor pedestrian malls (3.7 times higher), child education centres (2.4 times higher), adult education centres (2.9 times higher) and outdoor sporting grounds and fields (3.2 times higher).

LGAs (Table 2, Table 3)¹

- Up to one-third of adults reported exposure to second-hand smoke, varying from 13% in Noosa Shire Council to over 30% in LGAs such as Rockhampton, Logan and Redlands, and small LGAs the North West.
- Support for additional smoking bans ranged from:
 - 59% to 85% for **public transport waiting areas**.
 - 54% to 81% for **outdoor pedestrian malls**
 - 87% to 97% for **child education centres**
 - 61% to 82% for **adult education centres**
 - 45% to 79% for **outdoor sporting venues and playgrounds**.
- Greatest support for banning smoking in the selected public places was in the LGAs of Banana, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Mackay, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- Least support was in the LGAs of Douglas, Goondiwindi, Mareeba, Mount Isa, smaller LGAs in both the Central West and South West, and South Burnett. Lower support may not reflect negative views but rather the bans are not applicable, for example public transport and higher education facilities are not common in remote LGAs.

Table 1: Support for smoking bans (per cent), Queensland 2015

	Very frequently/ frequently % (95% CI)	Occasionally % (95% CI)	Rarely/ very rarely % (95% CI)	Never % (95% CI)
In the past 12 months, how frequently have you been exposed to second-hand smoke in a public place?	21.7 (20.6-22.9)	30.8 (29.5-32.0)	41.7 (40.4-43.1)	5.8 (5.3-6.4)
<i>To what extent would you support a smoking ban for:</i>		Strongly support/ Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose/ strongly oppose
–public transport waiting places (for example, bus stops, taxi ranks)		79.5 (78.3-80.5)	12.8 (11.9-13.8)	7.7 (7.1-8.5)
–outdoor pedestrian malls		75.8 (74.6-76.9)	14.8 (13.8-15.8)	9.5 (8.7-10.2)
–early childhood education or care centres		94.2 (93.5-94.8)	2.8 (2.4-3.3)	3.0 (2.6-3.5)
–areas in higher education facilities such as TAFE and universities		71.8 (70.6-73.1)	16.3 (15.2-17.3)	11.9 (11.1-12.8)
–outdoor sporting grounds and fields		72.2 (71.0-73.5)	17.4 (16.4-18.5)	10.4 (9.6-11.2)

Confidence intervals (CI) are similar to margins of error in that they provide the range of values that would likely contain the result if the entire population was included in the survey.

¹ Due to small populations in several LGAs, some were combined into larger regions for reporting purposes. Data are not available for Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

Table 2: Prevalence of smoking and exposure to smoke (per cent) by local government area, Queensland 2015

Hospital and Health Service	Local government area	Daily smoking (2013–14 data) % (95%CI)	Frequently exposed to smoke in public places % (95%CI)
Queensland	<i>2015 Queensland result was 12.3%, 2013–14 results for comparison:</i>		21.7 (20.6-22.9)
Cairns and Hinterland	Cairns Regional Council	17.5 (13.8-22.1)	25.9 (19.8-33.1)
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	13.1 (9.4-18.0)	18.0 (12.6-25.1)
	Douglas Shire Council	** ¹	18.5 (12.5-26.5)
	Mareeba Shire Council	16.3 (11.2-23.0)	16.8 (12.0-23.1)
	Tablelands Regional Council	14.8 (10.2-20.9)	21.7 (15.5-29.6)
Central Queensland	Banana Shire Council	10.5 (7.3-14.8)	18.4 (13.0-25.4)
	Central Highlands Regional Council	14.8 (10.2-21.1)	23.6 (17.3-31.2)
	Gladstone Regional Council	12.2 (9.4-15.6)	21.1 (15.4-28.2)
	Livingstone Shire Council	12.6 (7.8-19.8)	26.1 (19.1-34.6)
	Rockhampton Regional Council	19.1 (12.8-27.5)	31.4 (24.3-39.5)
Central West	Barcaldine Regional Council	15.2 (7.0-29.9)	**
	Longreach Regional Council	21.3 (11.0-37.4)	*14.1 (7.1-26.2)
	Rest of Central West HHS	22.2 (12.1-37.2)	*9.2 (4.8-17.1)
Darling Downs	Goondiwindi Regional Council	17.0 (11.9-23.9)	18.3 (12.4-26.2)
	South Burnett Regional Council	16.1 (11.5-22.2)	15.3 (10.3-22.3)
	Southern Downs Regional Council	8.8 (5.8-13.2)	19.5 (13.6-27.2)
	Toowoomba Regional Council	11.6 (7.7-17.0)	18.9 (13.8-25.4)
	Western Downs Regional Council	17.1 (11.7-24.2)	18.3 (12.7-25.7)
Gold Coast	Gold Coast City Council	10.6 (8.2-13.4)	22.5 (19.0-26.4)
	Scenic Rim Regional Council	12.3 (8.3-17.9)	20.6 (14.7-28.2)
Mackay	Isaac Regional Council	16.2 (11.9-21.6)	17.8 (12.8-24.3)
	Mackay Regional Council	16.5 (11.3-23.6)	21.9 (16.1-29.1)
	Whitsunday Regional Council	12.0 (8.0-17.6)	19.1 (13.2-27.0)
Metro North	Brisbane City Council	10.1 (8.1-12.5)	18.8 (15.9-22.1)
	Moreton Bay Regional Council	14.7 (11.8-18.2)	23.6 (20.3-27.3)
Metro South	Logan City Council	21.9 (17.4-27.2)	30.4 (26.7-34.5)
	Redland City Council	22.7 (15.1-32.8)	30.9 (23.4-39.6)
North West	Mount Isa City Council	18.8 (13.1-26.3)	22.7 (17.1-29.5)
	Rest of North West HHS	25.7 (17.4-36.2)	34.2 (22.3-48.5)
South West	Balonne Shire Council	12.8 (5.5-26.9)	**
	Maranoa Regional Council	9.4 (5.7-15.2)	21.3 (15.5-28.5)
	Murweh Shire Council	15.5 (9.5-24.3)	*18.2 (10.1-30.8)
	Rest of South West HHS	18.1 (10.7-29.0)	*23.6 (13.4-38.1)
Sunshine Coast	Gympie Regional Council	14.3 (10.7-18.8)	15.4 (9.5-23.9)
	Noosa Shire Council	**	13.1 (8.3-20.2)
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	10.3 (7.2-14.7)	16.8 (13.8-20.4)
Torres & Cape	Torres & Cape HHS	22.3 (15.8-30.5)	18.9 (11.5-29.4)
Townsville	Burdekin Shire Council	16.8 (10.2-26.4)	28.7 (21.2-37.6)
	Charters Towers Regional Council	14.6 (10.2-20.4)	21.9 (14.4-31.7)
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	8.3 (5.4-12.5)	14.9 (9.6-22.5)
	Townsville City Council	14.6 (10.9-19.2)	26.1 (20.5-32.5)
West Moreton	Ipswich City Council	21.4 (16.5-27.3)	21.6 (16.7-27.6)
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	16.5 (11.3-23.4)	19.8 (14.0-27.3)
	Somerset Regional Council	16.6 (12.2-22.2)	17.7 (11.9-25.4)
Wide Bay	Bundaberg Regional Council	14.9 (10.9-20.0)	22.1 (16.5-28.8)
	Fraser Coast Regional Council	16.8 (12.5-22.2)	18.9 (13.5-25.7)
	North Burnett Regional Council	11.3 (7.5-16.6)	17.0 (11.6-24.1)

*RSE of 25–50% and should be used with caution. ** RSE or sample size criteria not met. Included in totals where applicable.

Rest of Central West HHS: Boulia Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Diamantina Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

Rest of North West HHS: Burke Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council.

Rest of South West HHS: Bulloo Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council.

¹Included in Cairns Regional Council.

Table 3: Support for smoking bans (per cent), by local government area, Queensland 2015

Hospital and Health Services	Local government area	Support smoking bans for:	
		Public transport waiting areas % (95%CI)	Outdoor pedestrian malls % (95%CI)
Queensland		79.5 (78.3-80.5)	75.8 (74.6-76.9)
Cairns and Hinterland	Cairns Regional Council	78.3 (72.0-83.5)	73.3 (66.7-78.9)
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	79.2 (71.2-85.4)	73.8 (65.5-80.7)
	Douglas Shire Council	66.8 (57.2-75.2)	60.2 (50.8-68.8)
	Mareeba Shire Council	68.5 (60.9-75.2)	61.4 (53.7-68.6)
	Tablelands Regional Council	74.6 (67.2-80.9)	66.0 (58.0-73.2)
Central Queensland	Banana Shire Council	81.3 (74.9-86.5)	80.1 (73.5-85.3)
	Central Highlands Regional Council	72.7 (65.0-79.2)	63.2 (55.2-70.5)
	Gladstone Regional Council	75.3 (67.6-81.7)	67.8 (59.5-75.2)
	Livingstone Shire Council	75.6 (67.3-82.3)	66.7 (58.2-74.2)
	Rockhampton Regional Council	76.6 (69.4-82.5)	70.1 (62.6-76.6)
Central West	Barcaldine Regional Council	77.2 (62.6-87.3)	64.6 (49.1-77.5)
	Longreach Regional Council	72.7 (56.8-84.4)	75.0 (61.0-85.2)
	Rest of Central West HHS	59.1 (45.5-71.4)	54.6 (41.4-67.2)
Darling Downs	Goondiwindi Regional Council	70.7 (62.6-77.7)	64.7 (56.6-72.0)
	South Burnett Regional Council	63.9 (55.3-71.7)	63.1 (54.6-70.8)
	Southern Downs Regional Council	74.6 (67.1-80.8)	72.8 (65.3-79.1)
	Toowoomba Regional Council	80.7 (74.5-85.7)	78.8 (72.6-83.9)
	Western Downs Regional Council	71.6 (63.1-78.8)	72.7 (64.5-79.6)
Gold Coast	Gold Coast City Council	81.1 (77.6-84.2)	80.9 (77.6-83.8)
	Scenic Rim Regional Council	83.4 (76.8-88.3)	79.1 (71.6-85.0)
Mackay	Isaac Regional Council	72.7 (65.6-78.7)	65.4 (57.9-72.1)
	Mackay Regional Council	85.2 (79.5-89.6)	77.0 (70.1-82.7)
	Whitsunday Regional Council	73.0 (64.1-80.3)	70.7 (61.5-78.5)
Metro North	Brisbane City Council	82.5 (79.3-85.3)	79.2 (75.9-82.2)
	Moreton Bay Regional Council	81.3 (78.1-84.1)	79.3 (75.9-82.3)
Metro South	Logan City Council	74.6 (70.8-78.1)	68.7 (64.8-72.4)
	Redland City Council	82.7 (76.8-87.4)	79.8 (73.2-85.1)
North West	Mount Isa City Council	72.5 (64.7-79.1)	65.7 (57.9-72.7)
	Rest of North West HHS	72.5 (58.6-83.0)	63.9 (49.5-76.2)
South West	Balonne Shire Council	71.2 (57.2-82.0)	70.0 (57.3-80.3)
	Maranoa Regional Council	68.0 (60.4-74.7)	66.8 (59.3-73.5)
	Murweh Shire Council	76.9 (64.4-86.1)	68.3 (54.5-79.6)
	Rest of South West HHS	66.8 (51.1-79.5)	54.3 (38.3-69.5)
Sunshine Coast	Gympie Regional Council	74.3 (66.5-80.8)	71.4 (63.9-77.8)
	Noosa Shire Council	82.4 (74.4-88.3)	77.5 (69.5-83.8)
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	78.6 (74.7-82.0)	72.8 (68.8-76.5)
Torres & Cape	Torres & Cape HHS	76.2 (63.9-85.3)	75.2 (63.1-84.4)
Townsville	Burdekin Shire Council	76.5 (69.6-82.2)	75.1 (68.1-81.0)
	Charters Towers Regional Council	70.7 (62.4-77.8)	65.2 (56.6-72.8)
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	73.9 (66.5-80.2)	64.4 (56.4-71.8)
	Townsville City Council	76.8 (70.4-82.1)	73.4 (67.1-78.9)
West Moreton	Ipswich City Council	79.6 (73.8-84.4)	75.8 (69.6-81.0)
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	76.4 (68.5-82.9)	72.7 (63.4-80.4)
	Somerset Regional Council	78.2 (70.5-84.3)	73.0 (65.0-79.8)
Wide Bay	Bundaberg Regional Council	74.2 (67.1-80.2)	68.4 (61.0-74.9)
	Fraser Coast Regional Council	78.5 (71.4-84.3)	72.1 (64.4-78.7)
	North Burnett Regional Council	78.1 (70.7-84.0)	75.5 (67.9-81.8)

*RSE of 25–50% and should be used with caution. ** RSE or sample size criteria not met. Included in totals where applicable.

Rest of Central West HHS: Boulia Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Diamantina Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

Rest of North West HHS: Burke Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council.

Rest of South West HHS: Bulloo Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council.

Table 2: Support for smoking bans (per cent), by local government area, Queensland 2015 (continued)

Hospital and Health Services	Local government areas	Support smoking bans for:		
		Child education centres % (95%CI)	Adult education centres % (95%CI)	Outdoor sporting grounds/fields % (95%CI)
Queensland		94.2 (93.5-94.8)	71.8 (70.6-73.1)	72.2 (71.0-73.5)
Cairns and Hinterland	Cairns Regional Council	94.8 (91.9-96.7)	75.2 (68.8-80.7)	74.4 (68.0-79.9)
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	93.2 (87.1-96.6)	78.0 (69.9-84.3)	76.8 (68.9-83.2)
	Douglas Shire Council	87.9 (77.6-93.8)	63.6 (53.8-72.4)	64.0 (54.5-72.6)
	Mareeba Shire Council	86.8 (81.0-91.0)	62.5 (54.6-69.8)	56.3 (48.4-63.9)
	Tablelands Regional Council	90.9 (84.7-94.8)	67.5 (59.3-74.7)	62.0 (53.9-69.4)
Central Queensland	Banana Shire Council	94.8 (91.1-97.1)	75.5 (68.2-81.5)	75.2 (68.0-81.2)
	Central Highlands Regional Council	93.8 (89.3-96.4)	66.6 (58.6-73.8)	63.5 (55.6-70.7)
	Gladstone Regional Council	93.1 (87.7-96.2)	62.2 (53.9-69.9)	69.0 (61.0-76.0)
	Livingstone Shire Council	92.3 (85.7-96.0)	70.4 (62.1-77.5)	66.6 (58.3-74.0)
	Rockhampton Regional Council	95.4 (91.4-97.6)	67.6 (59.9-74.5)	68.6 (61.0-75.2)
Central West	Barcaldine Regional Council	93.8 (82.8-97.9)	82.0 (68.7-90.4)	78.6 (64.9-88.0)
	Longreach Regional Council	90.5 (79.8-95.9)	72.5 (58.6-83.1)	61.8 (46.3-75.2)
	Rest of Central West HHS	94.7 (87.3-97.9)	65.4 (51.1-77.3)	57.2 (43.7-69.7)
Darling Downs	Goondiwindi Regional Council	93.8 (89.7-96.4)	64.4 (55.9-72.0)	62.8 (54.7-70.2)
	South Burnett Regional Council	90.1 (84.8-93.7)	66.8 (58.1-74.5)	56.8 (48.3-65.0)
	Southern Downs Regional Council	92.5 (88.1-95.3)	69.9 (62.3-76.6)	65.4 (57.7-72.4)
	Toowoomba Regional Council	93.8 (89.8-96.3)	74.3 (67.7-80.0)	70.5 (63.9-76.3)
	Western Downs Regional Council	92.1 (85.3-95.9)	67.6 (59.1-75.1)	65.9 (57.6-73.4)
Gold Coast	Gold Coast City Council	95.6 (93.9-96.8)	74.7 (70.8-78.3)	75.8 (72.1-79.2)
	Scenic Rim Regional Council	93.3 (88.9-96.0)	80.4 (72.8-86.3)	77.4 (69.8-83.5)
Mackay	Isaac Regional Council	92.0 (87.2-95.1)	68.1 (60.7-74.7)	57.8 (50.1-65.3)
	Mackay Regional Council	95.3 (91.5-97.4)	76.2 (69.2-81.9)	76.9 (70.1-82.6)
	Whitsunday Regional Council	91.7 (84.8-95.6)	69.3 (60.3-77.0)	64.0 (54.8-72.3)
Metro North	Brisbane City Council	94.7 (92.5-96.3)	71.9 (68.2-75.2)	73.5 (70.0-76.8)
	Moreton Bay Regional Council	96.9 (95.5-97.9)	71.9 (68.2-75.4)	75.9 (72.4-79.1)
Metro South	Logan City Council	93.0 (90.4-94.9)	69.5 (65.5-73.2)	69.4 (65.5-73.1)
	Redland City Council	92.9 (88.6-95.6)	76.4 (69.5-82.1)	77.4 (70.7-82.9)
North West	Mount Isa City Council	91.3 (85.2-95.0)	61.2 (53.1-68.7)	64.4 (56.4-71.7)
	Rest of North West HHS	89.0 (74.9-95.6)	74.1 (60.0-84.5)	63.9 (50.1-75.8)
South West	Balonne Shire Council	91.9 (81.6-96.7)	60.8 (46.1-73.7)	64.9 (50.1-77.2)
	Maranoa Regional Council	94.9 (90.6-97.3)	76.5 (69.5-82.4)	63.7 (56.1-70.7)
	Murweh Shire Council	93.2 (81.4-97.7)	70.0 (54.7-81.8)	66.9 (51.8-79.2)
	Rest of South West HHS	88.8 (73.8-95.7)	65.1 (47.5-79.4)	45.3 (30.5-61.0)
Sunshine Coast	Gympie Regional Council	91.6 (86.7-94.9)	70.3 (62.4-77.2)	66.4 (58.4-73.6)
	Noosa Shire Council	96.2 (92.1-98.2)	74.3 (65.8-81.4)	77.2 (69.5-83.5)
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	94.5 (92.5-96.0)	71.6 (67.5-75.3)	70.9 (66.9-74.5)
Torres & Cape	Torres & Cape HHS	91.2 (82.8-95.7)	62.7 (48.8-74.8)	73.8 (62.7-82.5)
Townsville	Burdekin Shire Council	93.9 (89.5-96.5)	77.4 (70.4-83.1)	71.0 (63.5-77.5)
	Charters Towers Regional Council	90.7 (84.4-94.6)	72.8 (64.5-79.8)	65.1 (56.6-72.7)
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	93.1 (88.2-96.1)	73.3 (65.0-80.3)	67.0 (59.0-74.1)
	Townsville City Council	92.5 (87.0-95.8)	65.0 (58.4-71.2)	71.5 (65.0-77.1)
West Moreton	Ipswich City Council	94.0 (88.5-97.0)	69.5 (63.1-75.2)	69.1 (62.3-75.2)
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	95.5 (91.9-97.5)	71.7 (62.4-79.5)	78.8 (72.0-84.3)
	Somerset Regional Council	92.5 (87.3-95.7)	71.5 (63.3-78.5)	73.0 (65.3-79.4)
Wide Bay	Bundaberg Regional Council	89.9 (84.3-93.7)	71.7 (63.8-78.4)	64.1 (56.5-71.1)
	Fraser Coast Regional Council	91.3 (85.7-94.9)	76.3 (68.7-82.5)	70.8 (63.2-77.4)
	North Burnett Regional Council	93.2 (88.7-96.0)	75.7 (68.0-82.1)	64.8 (56.6-72.2)

*RSE of 25–50% and should be used with caution. ** RSE or sample size criteria not met. Included in totals where applicable.

Rest of Central West HHS: Boulia Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Diamantina Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

Rest of North West HHS: Burke Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council.

Rest of South West HHS: Bulloo Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council.