

Smoke-free early childhood education and care facilities

Information for parents and visitors

From 1 September 2016 smoking is banned at early childhood education and care facilities, and for five metres beyond their boundaries.

The law applies to all smoking products including electronic cigarettes.

Where does the ban apply?

Smoking is banned within the grounds of all Queensland early childhood education and care services including long day care services, kindergarten services, family day care, limited hours services and outside school hours care.

The smoking ban also applies within a five metre smoke-free buffer beyond the boundary of the facility.

Where does the ban not apply?

The law does not apply:

- To a person at residential or business premises located within the five metre smoke-free buffer zone around an early childhood and education care facility.
- To a person in a vehicle travelling through the five metre smoke-free buffer zone.

When does the ban apply?

The law applies at centre-based care at all times including service hours, weekends and holiday periods.

Family Day Care

Where an early childhood and education care facility is also a residential premises the law applies during the hours the premises is being used to provide an early childhood education and care service.

Why does the ban exist?

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

Children and young people are more susceptible to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke because they have smaller and more delicate lungs than adults, and their immune systems are still developing.

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

Children and young people are more likely to view smoking as socially acceptable when they regularly see people smoking.

Banning smoking in areas used by children helps make smoking less visible and discourages young people from taking up smoking.

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 comply with smoking bans and typically encourage others to do so.

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

To report a possible breach call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

What penalties might apply?

The maximum penalty for someone breaching the legislation is twenty penalty units, with an on-the-spot penalty of two penalty units.

As at July 2016, the current penalty unit amount is \$121.90. This amount increases annually. For more information on current penalty amounts call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

How can I find out more?

For more information about the tobacco laws call the Call the Queensland Government information line on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit:

www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp

Would you like to quit smoking?

To improve your chance of quitting smoking for good, it is a good idea 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 13QUIT (13 78 48) 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.