

New tobacco legislation

Information for patients and
visitors

Smoke-free Healthcare

What are the new laws?

From 1 January 2015, it is against the law to smoke at **all** public and private health facilities, and for five metres beyond their boundaries.

Public health facilities include:

- hospitals
- community health centres
- health clinics
- rehabilitation centres
- residential aged care facilities.

Private health facilities include:

- hospitals
- day hospitals.

The new laws apply to the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

What is the reason for the new laws?

There is strong community support for laws that create smoke-free environments in Queensland.

The new smoking laws:

- remove community exposure to smoke at **all** hospital and health facilities in Queensland
- ensure that smokers must stop smoking well before they enter health facility grounds, and do not congregate at entry and exit points, through the inclusion of the five metre smoke-free buffer
- create smoke-free working environments to support the health and wellbeing of hospital and healthcare staff

- reinforce the message that smoking is harmful to health and that hospitals are places for care and treatment, and the promotion of good health
- help smokers who are attempting to quit smoking by removing the triggers and opportunities to smoke in and around these environments.

Where can I smoke?

Smoking is permitted beyond the five metre buffer around the perimeter of hospital and healthcare facility boundaries.

Who enforces the laws?

The laws are enforced by Queensland Health environmental health officers and public facility authorised officers.

Patients, staff or visitors smoking in smoke-free areas may be given a warning to stop smoking, or be asked to move beyond the five metre smoke-free buffer if they wish to continue smoking.

On-the-spot fines apply for breaches of the tobacco laws.

More information

For more information on Queensland's tobacco laws, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit www.qld.gov.au

For information or support to quit smoking, call Quitline 13 QUIT (13 7848) or talk with your doctor, health professional, general practitioner or pharmacist.