

# 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](http://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.