



# SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

SUB CATEGORY: Health, Hygiene and Safety

## POLICY GOAL

Provide a healthy environment for children and all adults that is free of tobacco smoke.

## RATIONALE

*“Tobacco smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. Smoking leads to a wide range of diseases including many types of cancer, heart disease and stroke, chest and lung illnesses and stomach ulcers. It claims the lives of 15,500 Australians every year. Passive smoking causes early death and health problems in children and adults who do not smoke. A smoke-free environment is the only way to fully protect non-smokers from the dangers of second-hand smoke.”<sup>1</sup>*

**“Red Nose recommends: Keep baby smoke free before birth and after.**

- Smoking in pregnancy increases your baby’s risk of death during pregnancy and up to one year of age
- There is an increased risk of sudden unexpected death for babies exposed to tobacco smoke during pregnancy and after birth
- If baby’s father smokes, there is also an increased risk of SUDI
- The risk of SUDI is increased for babies who share a sleep surface with a person who smokes, even if the smoker doesn’t smoke in the bed
- Do not let anyone smoke near your baby.
- Keep breastfeeding baby even if you are a person who smokes

*Babies who are exposed to tobacco smoke before and after birth are at an increased risk of SUDI. To avoid exposing your baby to tobacco smoke, don’t let anyone smoke near your baby - not in the house, the car or anywhere else your baby spends time.”<sup>2</sup>*

*“Babies and young children are especially vulnerable to the poisons in second hand smoke because their bodies are developing.<sup>1</sup> Babies of mothers who smoke or who are exposed to second hand smoke are more likely to be born prematurely and be of low birth weight. Specific effects of passive smoking on babies and children include SUDI (Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy), respiratory infections and conditions including croup, bronchitis, and pneumonia; ear infections; learning difficulties; behavioural problems including increased infant irritability and hypertonicity, and an increased likelihood of childhood asthma. “<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> “Smoking and Tobacco Control” Cancer Council Australia (accessed on-line April 2020)

[https://www.cancer.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/smoking-and-tobacco-control/#jump\\_1](https://www.cancer.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/smoking-and-tobacco-control/#jump_1)

<sup>2</sup> “Smoke Free Environment” Red Nose article October 2016 (accessed on-line April 2020)

<https://rednose.org.au/article/smoke-free-environment>

<sup>3</sup> “Smoking” Red Nose article Feb 2018 (accessed April 2020) <https://rednose.com.au/article/smoking>

**The Education and Care Services National Regulations state:**

***“82 Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment***

*(1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that children being educated and cared for by the service are provided with an environment that is free from the use of tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol.”<sup>4</sup>*

**Queensland Legislation that guides our policy:**

*“From 1 September 2016, smoking is banned at early childhood education and care facilities and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries.*

*Early childhood education and care facilities are defined as:*

- *Approved education and care services under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011*
- *Queensland approved education and care services under the Education and Care Services Act 2013.*

*The smoking ban applies at all times—during and after service hours, on weekends and during school holidays. The smoking ban includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and electronic cigarettes.*

**Five metre buffer zone**

*The buffer zone is a no-smoking area around the perimeter of schools and early childhood education and care facilities. The buffer zone extends for 5 metres beyond the facility land boundary. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land.”<sup>5</sup>*

*“Smoking has been banned in cars carrying children under 16 years of age in Queensland since 1 January 2010”<sup>6</sup>*

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Smoking is not permitted by parents, families, employees or any other person within the confines of the building, grounds (including all car parks) or within 5 metres of the boundary fence or in entrance ways at any time including weekends, public holiday, during and after operational hours.
- Employees who are smokers are not permitted to smoke within working hours and paid breaks.
- If educators and other adults who work with children choose to smoke on their unpaid lunch break they must ensure that children and parents do not observe them smoking.
- Educators smoking in uniform may cause concern for some members of the community, those who smoke before or after work or during an unpaid lunch break are asked to take steps to ensure that this does not reflect on the centre by changing out of uniforms or wearing another item of clothing which covers the uniform and logo.
- All persons who have smoked outside of the property, beyond the 5-metre requirement, must wash their hands thoroughly when entering the service and must take all steps to ensure that children they come into contact with are not exposed to fumes on clothing, in their hair, on skin or through exhaled air.
- To avoid cigarette residue from clothing being inhaled by children being nursed or held, staff who smoke during their lunch break or before they begin their shift should ensure that they either;

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<sup>4</sup> *“Education and Care Services National Regulations”*, Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (December 2019)

<sup>5</sup> *“Educational Facilities – Tobacco Laws in Queensland”* Queensland Health (access on-line April 2020) <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/education/default.asp>

<sup>6</sup> *“Legislation to Ban Smoking in Public Spaces”* Tobacco in Australia Facts & Issues Cancer Council 2019 (accessed on-line April 2020) <http://www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au/15-7-legislation#Qld>

- Change their shirt before entering the building
- Place another shirt or suitable item of clothing over their uniform shirt to avoid cigarette smoke coming into contact with their uniform shirt
- Butts must also be disposed of responsibly and not within the centre grounds or building.
- The centre will source current information obtained from recognised health authorities about the risks associated with both passive and non-passive smoking to have available for families, educators and visitors to the service.
- Nominated Supervisors should arrange relevant, appropriate signage to remind all adults of these requirements.
- Information about Quitting smoking should be readily available at the service for families and educators.

## COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

- Educators and families will have access to this policy at all times.
- Educators and families will be provided with opportunities to be involved in the review of this policy.
- Educators and other adults working with children will be provided with this information during induction.
- Signage should be displayed to inform everyone of the requirements

## RELATED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

- Induction Checklist
- Annual Induction Refresher

## SCOPE AND ENFORCEMENT

The failure of any person to comply with this policy in its entirety may lead to;

- Termination of child enrolment
- Performance management of an employee which may lead to termination

## RECOGNISED AUTHORITIES AND DOCUMENTS WHICH GUIDE POLICY

- “Smoking and Tobacco Control” Cancer Council Australia (accessed on-line April 2020) [https://www.cancer.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/smoking-and-tobacco-control/#jump\\_1](https://www.cancer.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/smoking-and-tobacco-control/#jump_1)
- “Smoke Free Environment” Red Nose article October 2016 (accessed on-line April 2020) <https://rednose.org.au/article/smoke-free-environment>
- “Smoking” Red Nose article Feb 2018 (accessed April 2020) <https://rednose.com.au/article/smoking>
- “Education and Care Services National Regulations”, Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (December 2019)
- “Educational Facilities – Tobacco Laws in Queensland” Queensland Health (access on-line April 2020) <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/education/default.asp>
- “Legislation to Ban Smoking in Public Spaces” Tobacco in Australia Facts & Issues Cancer Council 2019 (accessed on-line April 2020) <http://www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au/15-7-legislation#Qld>

**DATE CREATED:** November 2011

### REVIEW DETAILS:

Review Date	Details of Changes
January 2013	No changes made, sources updated where applicable.

January 2014	No changes made, sources updated where applicable
May 2015	No changes made, sources updated where applicable
June 2016	Updated policy rationale quotes and included state specific laws regarding non-smoking and passive smoking. Communication - New signage will also be displayed to inform everyone of the requirements under the new Smoke free law. Updated sources.
May 2017	Sources updated. Inclusions and changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Smoking not permitted within 10m of boundaries or at entrance ways.</li> <li>● Quit Smoking information available for families and educators</li> <li>● Appropriate Signage should be installed</li> </ul>
May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Separated policies into state specific</li> <li>● Inclusion of information on smoking banned in cars with children under 16yrs of age in the Rationale</li> <li>● Updated sources and weblinks</li> </ul>
March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updated sources.</li> </ul>
April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updated sources and weblinks</li> </ul>