

POLICY

SMOKE-FREE PREMISES

Responsibility of: Schools Policy and Operations
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1 POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in any Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) school including the school grounds, except in areas as outlined in this policy. Smoking is also not permitted in any DEET office building.

2 BUSINESS NEED

Adherence to this policy enables DEET to meet the requirements of the Northern Territory *Tobacco Control Act 2002* (the Act) which commenced on 1 January 2003. Designed to reduce the exposure of the public to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke, the Act effectively bans smoking in restaurants, shopping centres and areas of public access including schools. It allows for exemptions to enable smoking in designated outdoor areas only.

An 'authorised person' may issue an 'on-the-spot' fine of \$100 where a person smokes in a non-exempt area. An occupier who allows smoking in premises that are covered by the Act is liable to a fine of up to \$5000.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of school principals and officers in charge of DEET offices to ensure that this policy is enforced. School principals must also ensure that community groups that use school premises are aware of and comply with the policy.

4 DEFINITION

'Authorised person' is one who is appointed by the Chief Health Officer under section 47(1) of the Act to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act and the Regulations generally.

'Premises' include all DEET school and office buildings and school grounds.

'School' includes preschool.

'School grounds' include the land area up to the boundaries.

5 RELATED POLICIES

Nil

6 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Tobacco Control Act and Tobacco Control Regulations

7 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

This policy will be displayed on the DEET Website and will be available to the public.

8 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

9 GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

In keeping with section 11(1) of the Act and Regulation 10 of the Tobacco Control Regulations, school staff may vote on whether their school has an exempted smoking area.

If the majority of a school's staff, including non-teaching staff, votes for an exemption, then principals must ensure that a discrete smoking area that complies with all the requirements of the legislation is provided. In summary, these requirements are that smoking is only allowed in discrete outdoor areas, outside of school buildings, not be visible to students and not be located within two metres of doorways and three metres of air conditioning inlets.

Where a janitor/caretaker resides on the school grounds then the area occupied by the janitor constitutes "domestic premises" for the purposes of section 7(2) (a) of the Act and as such it is not required to be smoke free. However, the principal must ensure that reasonable measures are in place to minimise the exposure of others to environmental tobacco smoke.

Schools that are declared smoke-free with no exemptions may display signs to this effect although this is not a requirement under the Regulations.

All community groups that use the school must also comply with this policy.

People seeking assistance to quit smoking can be referred to the national Quitline telephone number of 131 848, the Quit Now website at <http://www.quitnow.info.au/> or the Northern Territory Tobacco Action Project, Department of Health and Community Services, telephone number 8999 2661.