School information

The Queensland Government has passed amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act (1998), banning the use of smoking products, including tobacco and electronic cigarettes, in all enclosed and outdoor areas at state and non-state schools in Queensland—including primary, secondary and special education facilities—and for five metres beyond the boundary of school land.

The new laws take effect from 1 January 2015.

These laws offer further protection to the Queensland public—and in particular, children and young adults—from exposure to harmful environmental tobacco smoke.

Children's health is particularly affected by environmental tobacco smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma.

The new laws apply at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.

The five metre 'no smoking' buffer will ensure that smokers extinguish their smoking products well before they approach school land.

Smoking in motor vehicles where children under the age of 16 are present has been banned in Queensland since January 2010.

School land is defined as:

- Land on which a state school provides education programs under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.
- Land on which a non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001.
- Land on which a state or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example sport grounds. This includes land that is owned or leased by the school.
Five metre buffer includes:

- A five metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks.

Five metre buffer excludes:

- Residential and business premises that share a boundary with the school grounds; meaning that if the land shares a boundary with a residential or business premises, the five meter buffer does not extend into this land.

Further information

For information about Queensland’s tobacco laws, contact 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 general practitioner or pharmacist.