
Title:	Barwon Health Smoke Free Policy	
Type	Policy	Approved by
Department		Service
Author		Position

Purpose

The Smoke Free Policy aims to proactively address smoking as a significant health risk for smokers and non-smokers. In particular it aims to:

- Reduce the health risks associated with smoking and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.
- Provide a healthier, cleaner and safer work environment.
- Decrease the potential risk of litigation associated with discomfort or disease caused by environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace.

Rationale

Barwon Health has a key role in the promotion of health and the prevention of disease in the Barwon region. It should therefore be a public example of a healthy and progressive organisation.

Barwon Health recognises that passive smoking (exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)) can have detrimental health effects for non-smokers.

Barwon Health has an obligation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985, Section 21 – “To provide and maintain so far as is practicable for employees a working environment that is safe and without risks to health”.

Scope

The Smoke Free Policy addresses smoking through:

- smoking restrictions across all Barwon Health sites
- proactive promotion of a smoke free environment
- comprehensive smoking cessation support for patients and staff

Target Audience

The policy applies to all Barwon Health staff as well as to patients, clients, residents, contractors, volunteers and visitors.

Policy Statement

The Barwon Health Smoke Free Policy provides for a smoke free environment applicable to all buildings, vehicles and outdoor areas within the boundaries of all Barwon Health sites. It also provides for appropriate smoking cessation advice and support to Barwon Health patients, clients, residents and employees. This policy comes into effect as of 1st July 2006.

Procedures

Cessation Support

Barwon Health will pro-actively encourage and support smoking cessation for staff and patients.

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Staff Support

For staff, cessation support and advice is available from the staff healthcare service, StaffCare. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) is available for staff at a discounted rate.

Inpatients

Patients admitted to Barwon Health will receive best practice management of nicotine dependence in order to support abstinence while they are in hospital, and to encourage long term cessation. Management will be guided by Inpatient Guidelines and Protocols. NRT will be provided to inpatients when prescribed on the medication chart free of charge, as part of a holistic treatment program within Barwon Health. These patients will also be offered one weeks supply of NRT upon discharge at the PBS co-payment rate which applies to other discharge medication.

Ambulatory care

Smoking cessation advice and support will also be offered as appropriate to patients/clients attending Barwon Health ambulatory care services.

Policy communication and education

Barwon Health will ensure high awareness of the policy and of the smoke-free boundaries through ongoing communication. The boundaries of Barwon Health facilities will be clearly sign posted to identify the smoke-free boundaries.

All advertisements for Barwon Health job positions, and tenders for contractors, will include a statement regarding the Smoke Free Policy.

Policy compliance

Policy compliance is facilitated through clear signage, education, publicity, promotion and reiteration of the policy.

For staff, non-compliance will result in disciplinary action. All staff members in supervisory positions are accountable for enforcing the policy amongst their own staff.

All staff members are responsible for encouraging adherence to the policy amongst each other.

All staff members are responsible for encouraging and enforcing the policy amongst visitors. Upon seeing visitors smoking within the boundaries of a Barwon Health site staff members are requested to ask visitors to extinguish their cigarette. If this is ineffective, they may be requested to leave the site. This procedure may not be effective in some cases, and so a common sense approach is recommended.

All staff members are responsible for educating their patients about the smoke free policy and for encouraging adherence to the policy.

Policy Outcomes

Anticipated outcomes of the Barwon Health Smoke Free Policy are as follows:

- Provide cleaner air for all people on a Barwon Health site.
- Ensure people are aware of the policy purpose and rationale.
- Ensure people who wish to reduce or quit smoking are aware of available cessation support and assistance

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- Encourage patients who smoke to reduce or quit smoking, through offering cessation support and assistance whilst occupying a Barwon Health site
- Promote Barwon Health as a leading example of a healthy and progressive organisation.

Key Legislation, Acts & Standards

Tobacco Act 1987 (including amendments to 2007)
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ta198773/

Tobacco Amendment Act (2005)
[http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/0/55B5BBE3746510FCC A25705F0020F82D/\\$FILE/05-045a.pdf](http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/0/55B5BBE3746510FCC A25705F0020F82D/$FILE/05-045a.pdf)

Tobacco Regulations 1997 (including amendments to 2007)
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_reg/tr1997182/

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ohasa2004273/

Key Aligned Documents

Protocols for management of nicotine dependent patients.