

## SMOKEFREE LOWER HUTT FAQs

In May 2016, Hutt City Council extended its Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy.

### What areas are included in Lower Hutt's Smokefree Policy?

- Playgrounds
- Outdoor swimming pool complexes
- Parks and sportsgrounds – including skate parks
- Beaches
- Bus shelters and train stations
- Outdoor pavement dining areas
- Outdoor public areas outside Council buildings and facilities (eg, Walter Nash Centre, the Dowse Art Museum, Libraries)
- Council run and sponsored events (eg, Petone Winter Carnival, Films by Starlight)

Smokefree town centres are also being explored.

### Why the move to smokefree?

Smoking is the greatest single preventable cause of death in New Zealand, causing a quarter of all cancer deaths. Second-hand smoke is also a serious, and often under estimated, public health issue, especially for children. The objectives of the policy are to:

- further denormalise smoking for children and young people by reducing its visibility in public places
- contribute to improved health and wellbeing by reducing smoking and the impacts of second-hand smoke.

Through the policy, Council is taking a stand for the health of its city and people.

### Is there public support for this?

There was strong public support for designating public areas in the city smokefree. 90% of respondents to council's Citizen's Panel survey supported the city becoming increasingly smokefree, and 81% were frustrated when people smoked near them when they were dining outside our cafes or restaurants.

### How is the policy being rolled out?

The policy is being rolled out progressively over three years 2016-19 and is being promoted through signage, promotion and marketing. This is a policy, not a bylaw – and is not about punishing smokers or fining them. It's a social enforcement approach – not a regulatory one. The policy, with the support of signage, is about empowering and supporting members of the public to say something in a situation where the policy isn't being observed in a smokefree area.

Healthy Families Lower Hutt is leading the Action Plan and the and here is the [Smokefree outdoor public place policy](#) document.

### **How will people know where the smokefree areas are?**

Signage, promotion and marketing are being used to inform the public. You can also look at maps which show boundaries around Council facilities and parks. These can be found in the Maps section of Council's website.

### **Does this policy unfairly impact businesses with outdoor pavement dining?**

Research indicates that spending has either been unaffected, or goes up, following smokefree laws or approaches in New Zealand and overseas. In council's Citizen's Panel, 81% of people said they were frustrated when people smoked near them when they were dining outside our cafes or restaurants.

Council is providing free window and table top signage to cafes and restaurants and these can be ordered by emailing: [healthyfamilieslowerhutt@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:healthyfamilieslowerhutt@huttcity.govt.nz).

Council is asking that ashtrays not be provided on tables in public places.

### **Is it only pavement dining that's covered by the policy – not courtyards or balcony dining?**

Yes. This policy does not cover areas such as balconies and courtyards that businesses may have on their property. These areas are covered by the Smokefree Environments Act 1990.

### **What is happening with town centres?**

Council began exploring smokefree town centres in 2017 and will involve community engagement.

### **What about the rights of smokers?**

A smokefree policy is not a statement about or judgment upon smokers, and does not infringe upon a smoker's rights. A smokefree policy doesn't tell people not to smoke – only where not to smoke.

### **What help is available to those who want to quit smoking?**

There is a resource that outlines available support on the [Smokefree Lower Hutt](#) webpage.

### **For resources or further information**

Downloadable signs can be accessed on the [Smokefree Lower Hutt](#) webpage.

If you have any questions regarding the policy or wish to order more resources, please email:

[healthyfamilieslowerhutt@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:healthyfamilieslowerhutt@huttcity.govt.nz)