

# SMOKEFREE LOWER HUTT

## SMOKEFREE OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES POLICY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Hutt City Council is taking a leadership role to ensure that Lower Hutt:

- is a healthy community;
- has a healthy natural environment with clean air, water and land; and
- has a built environment that is attractive, safe, and healthy.

Smokefree outdoor public places contribute toward further denormalising smoking in Lower Hutt and achieving the goal of a smokefree Aotearoa 2025. The Smokefree Aotearoa goal is that fewer than 5 percent of New Zealanders will be smokers. The government approach is that this will be achieved by:

- protecting children from exposure to tobacco marketing and promotion;
- reducing the supply of, and demand for tobacco; and
- providing the best possible support for quitting.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 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.

## 3. APPROACH

The Smoke-Free Environments Act 1990 prohibits smoking in workplaces and certain public areas, but smoking is not illegal.

Smokefree Lower Hutt contributes to making our city increasingly smokefree. The policy discourages smoking in outdoor public places in Lower Hutt primarily through signage, promotion and marketing, education, and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

The policy takes a regulatory approach to public land leased to businesses to use for outdoor dining. In such instances, the contract with Council requires the area to be smokefree.

## 4. SMOKEFREE AREAS IN LOWER HUTT

The following areas in Lower Hutt are designated smokefree:

- a. Playgrounds;
- b. Outdoor swimming pool complexes;

- c. Parks and sports grounds, including skate parks;
- d. Bus shelters and bus stops;
- e. Train stations;
- f. Beaches;
- g. Outdoor public areas around council buildings and facilities;
- h. Smokefree Council run and funded events. Council will work with event organisers to encourage events for which it provides funding to be smokefree;
- i. Outdoor pavement dining areas;
- j. Suburban centres.

## 5. VAPING

Vaping products, also known as e-cigarettes, are devices that produce a vapour by heating a solution (e-liquid). The Council, through its publicity and communication, asks that people not vape in smokefree spaces or at smokefree events. Signage does not include a 'no vaping' message.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION

The policy will be delivered as part of the core activities of relevant Council teams.

The focus for signage is firstly on the most popular areas, areas where children and families congregate or socialise, and areas where smoking rates are high. Implementation of the policy includes signage and messaging in Te Reo Māori.

For bus stops, bus shelters, and train stations, Council works with Greater Wellington Regional Council and other partners add and renew signage.

## 7. REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed from June 2022.