

1 BACKGROUND

The purpose of this policy is to support no smoking within 10 metres of all children's playground equipment, sportsfields and in Council owned car parks associated with sportsfields and playground areas.

2 PRINCIPLES

The underlying principles of this policy are:

- To reduce harm to the community from drugs, such as tobacco
- To increase the community's awareness about the dangers of smoking, and
- To increase the number of smoke free environments in the Fairfield LGA

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are:

- Reduce smoking amongst those sections of the community using Council's sportsfields and playgrounds,
- Reduce exposure of young people to the use of cigarette smoke in recreation and sports areas
- Reduce the level of environmental pollution from cigarette use in sportsfields and parks

4 STAKEHOLDERS

This Policy was originally adopted by Council in 2006 and was developed with internal and external stakeholders, including Councillors, local Members of Parliament, sports clubs, sports associations, NSW Health, Cancer Council, community and cultural groups, University of Sydney, Council staff. The 2014 Puff Free Park Policy refreshes and reviews the 2006 & 2011 Policy and was undertaken in consultation with South Western Sydney Local Health District and NSW Cancer Council. In 2013 the *NSW Health Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000* was amended to prohibit smoking in a range of public areas including parks and sportsfields. The Puff Free Parks Policy primarily aligns with NSW legislation.

5 APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The policy is to be implemented as a promotion and education program. The use of incentive measures and education material for local users of the facilities is considered the best form of action to produce long term change. Council staff will monitor the impact of the policy by inspecting venues.

The policy will be included in the conditions for hire of sportsfields. Failure by the sports clubs to implement the policy can impact on the clubs access to the sportsfields.

NSW Health has introduced new regulations pertaining to smoking in public places. As of 7 January, 2013 'No smoking in spectator areas at public sports grounds' and 'No smoking near children's outdoor playground equipment' came into effect. NSW Health is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Smoke Free Environment Act 2000*, which include these regulations. NSW Health Inspectors are authorised to enforce the ban on smoking at public sportsfields and near children's outdoor playground equipment.

6 POLICY CONTEXT

Fairfield City Council introduced the Puff Free Parks Policy in 2006, to protect children and young people from the harmful effects of smoking. This policy was reviewed and reaffirmed by Council in 2011. The policy prohibits smoking anywhere on Council owned sportsfields, within 10 meters of children's playgrounds and in associated car parks owned and/or managed by Council.

While second hand smoke is generally not seen as a major concern in outdoor venues, it can still cause serious health problems particularly for children, pregnant women and many individuals who suffer from allergies or medical conditions, ie, asthma and heart disease.

The indicators for this initiative are:

- Tobacco use is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and death in Australia.
- Approximately 17.3% of Fairfield City residents aged 16 years or more are smokers, which is similar to 17.1% for NSW and 17.7% for South Western Sydney Local Health District.
- Great variation in smoking prevalence exists within the Fairfield City community. Of concern are the smoking rates of teenage girls and young women and various non-English speaking background groups.
- Certain migrant communities have much higher levels of smoking than people born in Australia, particularly the Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese communities.
- In Fairfield 52.5% of the population are born overseas.
- 33.5% of males in the Fairfield City area are smokers.
- The smoking prevalence of Vietnamese speaking males is 47.7% and Arabic speaking males is 36.5%.
- There is a clear and direct relationship between smoking and the disadvantaged.

- The Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA) is the fifth most disadvantaged LGA in NSW.
- Rates of lung cancer incidence and death for men in Fairfield Local Government Area are significantly higher than the NSW rates.
- Second hand smoke is harmful to both children and adults.
- Second hand smoke is especially dangerous to children and adults who suffer with asthma or other chronic conditions.
- Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and take approximately five years to breakdown.
- Cigarette butts cause injury to wildlife and damage waterways.

7 RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

Fairfield City Council Drug Action Plan 2013–2018 ‘Reducing the Harm from Drugs’,

8 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

NSW Health Smoke Free Environment Act 2000

- NSW Health – ‘No smoking in spectator areas at public sports grounds’
- NSW Health – ‘No smoking near children’s outdoor playground equipment’

9 VARIATION

There are no variations to this policy

10 REVIEW DATE

The policy will be reviewed three years after implementation, October 2017, or as determined.

11 AUTHORISATION

The strategy was adopted by Council at the Services Committee Meeting on 11 November 2014. The original Puff Free Parks Policy was adopted by Council at the Outcomes Committee Meeting on 9 May 2006, and reaffirmed in November 2011.