

Tobacco and the law

- Across Australia, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under 18 years of age. People who sell cigarettes to underage smokers can be fined.
- Fines can even be given to older people who buy cigarettes and give them to smokers who are younger than 18 years of age.
- Smoking in enclosed public places (such as restaurants, cafes, bars and government buildings) is now banned in Australia. The information below tells us why.
- It is now accepted that passive smoking (breathing in other people's cigarette smoke) is a risk to everyone's health, not just to those who smoke. Smoke-free areas have become common and are now expected to be available for non-smokers in all public places of work and recreation.
- There has been a law passed by the Australian Government that smoking is banned in all Australian Government buildings, aeroplanes and airports.
- Across Australia, smoking is banned in all closed-in places such as dining areas, public places, pubs, clubs and gaming (poker machines) areas.
- Each different state and territory government can decide its own laws on the issue of smoking in public places and workplaces. This means that they can make their own decisions about which public places will be smoke-free, and the laws may be different in different states and territories.



Smoking is now banned in many public places across Australia.

Tobacco packaging and advertising

- It is law in Australia that tobacco must be sold in packets of 20 cigarettes or more, and that the packaging shows health warnings about the effects of smoking.
- Since 1973, as more is understood about the negative effects of smoking, the Australian government has demanded increasingly serious warnings about the effects of smoking on health. From March 2006, most tobacco products sold in Australia have required graphic health warnings.
- By law, tobacco advertisements cannot appear in print media such as newspapers and magazines.
- Tobacco advertising on radio and television is also illegal, and became illegal in online media (the internet) in September 2012.
- Point-of-sale advertising is the advertising shown in shops that sell cigarettes. Under state and territory law, point of sale advertising is severely restricted.



Health warnings for cigarette packs in Australia