

Smokefree Playgrounds & Sports Areas Policy



Responsibility:	
First Adopted:	
Review Date:	
Review Frequency:	

Policy Objectives

To discourage smoking in playgrounds and sports areas primarily used by young people, through publicity, education and signage.

Principles

Research shows that the longer the onset of smoking is delayed the less likely a person is to become a daily smoker. The visibility of tobacco use in the community needs to be reduced if attitudes and behaviours of young people are to change. An effective way to do this is to increase the number of outdoor settings in the community where smoking is discouraged. Education through signage and publicity will help to discourage smoking in playgrounds and sports areas and create a clean and healthy environment for young people in the community.

Definitions

Background

The Council provides open spaces and facilities for active and passive recreation to enhance and promote the physical and mental wellbeing of the District's residents and visitors alike. The South Waikato District has 16 playgrounds, including skate parks and 5 sports areas that are to be promoted as smokefree. These are listed as Appendix 1. These are areas where young people are key users.

The policy focuses on reducing smoking. Children learn by observing others and the frequency with which young people observe smoking has an association with the perception that smoking is socially acceptable and normal.

On 3 December 2003, an amendment to the Smoke-Free Environments Act 1990 was passed requiring, among other things:

(a) Buildings and grounds of schools and early childhood centres to be smoke free by 1 January 2004;

- (b) Licensed premises to be smoke-free indoors from 10 December 2004;
- (c) Other workplaces to become smoke-free indoors; – including offices, factories, warehouses, work canteens and smoko rooms from 10 December 2004;
- (d) The display of tobacco products in retail outlets restricted and a “smoking kills” sign erected near the display from 10 December 2004; and
- (e) Access of smoking products to those under 18 years further restricted.

The purpose of the Act is not only to send a clear message about the dangers of smoking, but also to limit the detrimental effect second hand smoke has on the health of those people who do not wish to smoke.

This policy is an education and awareness based policy concentrating on the health and wellbeing of youth and creating a healthy environment. It is voluntary and is not enforceable. Similar smokefree policies in public outdoor settings have been adopted by more than 20 other councils in New Zealand, as well as other countries including Australia, the United Kingdom and the USA.

The policy contributes to the following key community visions and long term strategies:

1. Promote a healthy, safe community by encouraging people from all walks of life to lead healthy, active lifestyles.
2. Protect and enhance our clean, green, physical environment
3. Allow everyone to have the opportunity and encouragement to lead a healthy, active lifestyle.

Policy Statements

Policy 1 – All Council owned playgrounds and sports areas will be promoted as smokefree.

Policy 2 – Signage will be erected at children’s playgrounds and at the entrance to sports areas, encouraging the public to refrain from smoking.

Policy 3 – Signage will focus on positive reinforcement of the smokefree message in an effort to seek compliance from the public as opposed to enforcement.

Policy 4 – Advertising and publicity will be carried out to inform the community, including schools, of the Smokefree Playgrounds and Sports Areas Policy.

Relevant Delegations

References and Relevant Legislation

2003 Amendment to the Smoke-Free Environments Act 1990

Annotations

Res No	Date	Subject/Description
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Appendix 1

Tirau

Church Street playground
Okoroire/Prospect Reserve skate ramp (corner of Okoroire Rd and Prospect Ave).

Arapuni

Pioneer Reserve playground
Jones Landing playground (Lake Arapuni)

Putaruru

Overdale Road playground
Bent Street skate park
Grey Street playground
Galway Crescent playground
Totara Park (sports)
Glenshea Park (sports)

Tokoroa

Lake Moana-nui playground
Dunham Park playground
Inman Reserve playground
Glenkill Reserve playground
Elizabeth Street playground
Kauri Street playground
Logan Street skate park
Tokoroa Youth Park
Memorial Sports Ground (sports)
Strathmore Park (sports)
James Higgins Park (sports)