

## QUT Submission to Parliament

### **Inquiry into smoking and tobacco use at universities, technical and further education facilities, and registered training organisations.**

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12/1/16

What arrangements currently apply that limit smoking at these facilities?

QUT has an existing smoking policy (MOPP A/9.7 Smoking on Campus) which is based on the legislative requirements outlined in the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld), and also contains further restrictions on where smoking can occur on campus. This Policy currently applies to the following areas:

- in all buildings or parts of buildings under QUT's control
- in any outdoor area of a food outlet, or any outdoor area where food and drink is provided
- in QUT vehicles
- within 10 metres of any entrance to buildings, air conditioning intakes, ventilation louvres or opened windows
- on all semi-enclosed thoroughfares such as verandahs or colonnades and on all elevated walkways with or without fixed roof structures which require people using building entrances or moving between buildings to pass through tobacco smoke emissions
- in any other area where there is signage expressly prohibiting smoking.

The Vice-Chancellor's 2015 'Enabling QUT to Function Better' Survey listed smoking among the top five concerns for QUT staff. QUT recognises that staff and students have a personal choice to smoke; however, the University also recognises that there is an equal right for staff and students who do not smoke to work and study in an environment free from tobacco smoke. This is also in line with QUT Blueprint 4 which states the value of providing 'a safe, supportive and healthy working environment'. Consequently, the University Health, Safety and Environment Committee endorsed a recommendation to implement a smoke free QUT.

QUT plans to update the University's Smoking on Campus policy to a smoke free policy for the Kelvin Grove and Gardens Point campuses. The change is scheduled to take effect from Semester 2, 1 July 2016. This Policy will apply to the following:

- All students
- All staff
- Visitors (pedestrian traffic, visitors attending functions and venues on campus)
- Individuals associated with QUT including:
  - Individuals who have been granted access to QUT property, services or infrastructure (for example, temporary staff engaged by QUT through an employment agency)
  - Consultants and independent contractors undertaking services for QUT
  - Members of QUT Council or other University committees
  - Visiting and adjunct academics, or other academics or research collaborators

- Volunteers who contribute to or act on behalf of the University.

#### The impact of smoking on staff, students and campus users

Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QUT would be leading the way for South East Queensland universities.</li> <li>• QUT would be joining ANU, Curtin, Deakin and ECU in implementing a ban on smoking on campus.</li> <li>• QUT would be demonstrating a commitment to employee / student health and wellbeing by implementing a ban on smoking.</li> <li>• The program would align to QUT values and research agenda.</li> <li>• QUT would be progressing its 'towards smoke free' commitment.</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial implications for the university, which would include, but not be limited to, potential additional quit smoking programs, signage, communications and education programs.</li> <li>• The possible impact on enrolments in regard to student cohorts which are known to have a high proportion of smokers.</li> <li>• Potential negative impacts on functions/shows/events being held at QUT (Gardens Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, 360 Room, Old Government House).</li> </ul>

#### The capacity for improved laws and regulations at these facilities to reduce smoking

Through the findings and learning of the current Smoke Free QUT initiative, Queensland University of Technology supports the Parliament's review to ban smoking at universities. Changes in laws and regulations would support the implementation of a Smoke Free environment, particularly via communication to the public that frequently pass through our campuses.