



## Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015

### December 2015, Response

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The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) makes this submission to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee on behalf of 22 Catholic schooling authorities (representing 298 schools) and five delegated Catholic agencies (representing 24 kindergartens) across Queensland.

The objective of the Bill is to amend the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* to:

- create more smoke-free public places across Queensland
- prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets, and
- make minor and technical amendments to clarify and strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws.

The Bill includes the proposal to:

“Extend smoking bans to include all outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood education and care facilities, and private and public residential aged care facilities, except in nominated areas.”

QCEC has previously provided a response supporting the section of the Bill that directly affects QCEC with reference to ‘early childhood education and care facilities’ as there are 24 Catholic kindergartens and numerous Outside Schools Hours Care services operating across the state.

QCEC supports the proposed legislative changes to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* that would see smoking banned more extensively in public areas, particularly those where young people are most likely to be present such as sports and recreational areas. QCEC strongly endorses such a step as a very positive proactive step to protect the well-being of young people and other members of the community.

QCEC acknowledges that any formal enforcement action will be the responsibility of authorised officers under the *Tobacco Act*.