

# Smokefree public outdoor dining areas in NZ



This would include pavement and off-pavement areas of cafés and restaurants

## Workplace safety

- At present hospitality workers have to be close to smokers during a working day.
- Smoking *outside* near windows and doors results in significantly higher smoke levels in adjacent *indoor* areas, affecting work safety indoors, contrary to current law.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Do smokefree outdoor areas reduce smoking and help quitting?

- Californian smokers with smokefree park/patios laws were more likely to attempt quitting.<sup>3</sup>
- Those *not* exposed to smoking on Ontario bar/restaurant outdoor areas were more likely to have tried to quit, and over twice as likely to not relapse.<sup>4</sup>

## Are smokefree outdoor areas practical?

- Many states, provinces and cities in Australia and North America have successful smokefree outdoor dining policies,<sup>5</sup> including New South Wales<sup>6</sup> and Queensland.<sup>7</sup>
- New Zealand experience with adopting indoor smokefree laws indicates that compliance was very high,<sup>8,9</sup> and bar staff found patrons responded well to being asked to go outside.<sup>10</sup> The introduction of Queensland smokefree outdoor dining resulted in 98% compliance.<sup>11</sup>
- There is majority New Zealand public support for smokefree outdoor dining.<sup>12, 13</sup>

## Are smokefree outdoor areas business-friendly?

- Café/restaurant sales increased after the 2004 New Zealand smoking legislation.<sup>8,9</sup>
- Support by smokers is likely to sharply increase once they experience the policy.<sup>8, 14, 15</sup>
- For NZ business experience of smokefree outdoor dining, see the video on <https://auckland-northland.cancernz.org.nz/en/reducing-cancer-risk/help-create-change/make-outdoor-dining-smokefree-in-auckland/>
- 20% more Queenslanders said they visited outdoor dining/bars after law change.<sup>11</sup>
- In Australia, the majority of business's surveyed supported implemented bylaws.<sup>16, 17</sup>

## Equity, alternatives

- Discrimination? Legal rights to smoke are limited by law, to protect others.
- 'Having a cigarette with a meal is how many want to socialise and have fun': In fact, most smokers regret starting smoking<sup>18</sup> and want to quit.<sup>19</sup>
- Are separate smoking/non-smoking outdoor areas practical and effective?:
  - Significant tobacco smoke effects occur at over 10m from groups of smokers<sup>20</sup>
  - Making all outdoor dining areas smokefree is simpler and easier to enforce
  - Investment in separating areas appears unwise, given the 2025 smokefree goals



## Smokefree outdoor dining: References



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