

Smokefree community and music events involving council land



Fresh air

- There is no safe level of secondhand smoke.¹
- Significant tobacco smoke effects occur at over 10m from groups of smokers,² and at least 9m from a burning cigarette in light winds.³

Less litter: Less smoking in public outdoor places means less litter, lower cleaning costs and a healthier environment:

- Research on cigarette butt litter in Wellington indicates that butts are littered even when rubbish bins are around.^{4, 5}
- Cigarette butts are highly toxic to fresh water and marine life,⁶ and a source of metal contamination.⁷
- In 2009, six volunteers collected 2000 cigarette butts from Oriental Bay in ‘a couple of hours’.⁸
- In 2000, 162 butts/square meter were found ‘on the harbour floor near the overseas passenger terminal stormwater outfall’.⁸

Public support

- In a 2010 New Zealand survey, when asked ‘do you think people should be able to smoke at outdoor music or community events and activities?’ 59% said no.⁹
- A 2013 Auckland survey found 70% support for smokefree parks and events.¹⁰

Helping smokers quit

- The fewer smokers seen in public, the easier it is for smokers to quit and stay quit.¹¹⁻¹³
- Smokefree outdoor areas increase quit attempts.^{12, 14}

Smokefree event policies in place elsewhere

- Tasmania: Markets; Agricultural Shows; music, food and wine festivals.¹⁵
- San Francisco: Smoking is not permitted at public events on city & county property¹⁶
- Ottawa requires all events on city property to be smokefree.¹⁷
- Iowa: Requires smokefree permanent and temporary seating areas of outdoor sports and entertainment events.¹⁸



Smokefree events: References



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