Smokefree policies for racecourses and outdoor sports facilities



New Zealand Public Health Association Conference Christchurch, October 2017

George Thomson, Nick Wilson

University of Otago, Wellington, NZ



Aims

To assess the smokefree policies of New Zealand outdoor sports and racecourse facilities with stands



Background



Often large numbers of people at sports and racecourses

- − Ellerslie & Addington − 15,000 people plus
- 2016 National racecourse attendance 424,000 people
- Provincial rugby crowds:
 - New Plymouth -10,000 plus
 - Invercargill 20,000 (2010 Ranfurly Cup)

Background



- Relatively close proximity (especially on stands)
- Many can be exposed to:
 - secondhand smoke
 - the normalising impact of smoking
 - Some 'smokefree' stadia (Eden Park, Mt Smart) but not standard, especially in provinces

Methods

- Visited 25 sports facilities and 25 racecourses during April 2016 – April 2017
- Photos of smokefree signage within 10 metres of all pedestrian or vehicle entrances



Results: Of 25 sports facilities

- 10/25 (40%) had smokefree signage for outdoor areas at their *main* entrance
- 6/25 (24%) had additional smokefree signage at other entrances
- Four were smokefree in both grounds and stands
- At one the only smoking restriction was for people who were on the artificial turf

Results: Few Te reo signs at sports facilities

• 1/25 (in Wairoa) had a small Te Reo sign at

one of 4 entrances



Results: Sign quality

- Many small signs: GSV poor (10%) sensitivity, mainly due to the small size of the signage
- Wordy
- Weak imperatives





Results: For 25 racecourses

No racecourse (0/25) had signs about smokefree outdoor policies at any entrances

Patron & Bag Searches

- All patrons and their possessions may be subject
- Searches may also be carried out during an event
- Patrons who refuse to participate in searches may premises
- Prohibited items will be surrendered.

Smoking

- There is no smoking within the function rooms
- Smoking is allowed away from the buildings

General

- Patrons must not sit or stand in aisles, or block entry
- Some activities that take part on the premises are datheir own risk.
- Patrons bring personal items onto the premises do so held responsible for any damages to, loss or theft of a
 - Advertising promotions and product giveaways etc are



Discussion



Opportunities for:

- Local government who own sports facilities
- Health promoters and the wider health sector to work with sports and race clubs on smokefree policies
 - A need for help to venues in best practice implementation

Publication soon: New Zealand Medical Journal

Contact: george.thomson@otago.ac.nz