Better smokefree signs at schools and hospitals?

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Background

• School/pre-school grounds are required to have smokefree signs at every entrance by law
• All District Health Boards have smokefree policies for all or most of their grounds
• Outdoor smokefree policies need to be communicated
Aim

To examine smokefree signs for NZ school and hospitals grounds

Methods

In-person field observation

(i) at 50 state primary/secondary schools;
(ii) at 10 hospitals

Google Street View used for another 20 hospitals

(Methods details in publications: See last slide)
Results: Schools - inadequate

• Schools usually had 3+ entrances

• Only 32% of schools had smokefree signs at the main school entrance
  – ie, most breached the law

• 66% had at least one sign visible from a public road anywhere on the premises

• Average signs per school: 1.3

• Few stated that the grounds were smokefree
Results: Hospitals

• 90% of hospitals had smokefree signs at the main entrance

• 90% had at least one other visible sign

• **But:** only 40% of hospitals had any signs that stated that the grounds were smokefree

• Some smokefree signs were small and mixed in with multiple other signs.
So what?

Health promoter, parent and community opportunity to:

• Further remind schools where there are no/insufficient signs (our ANZJPH letter prompted this)

• Ensure school and hospital signs make it clear that the grounds are smokefree

• Work with DHBs to ensure hospital signs are clear and easy to see
Further reading
