

Smokefree Public Places Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Kāpiti residents by:

- Reducing the incidence of smoking and vaping in public places
- De-normalising smoking and vaping behaviour in public places
- Supporting healthy environments for our tamariki and rangatahi.

2. Background

The Smokefree Environments Act 1990 prohibits smoking in workplaces, education and childcare centres, public transport, passenger services, and certain other public areas, and restricts smoking in restaurants, cafes and casinos.

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 added references to vaping to the above Act. Vaping is prohibited or restricted in the locations described under the 1990 Act.

In March 2011 the Government adopted the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 goal. The Government aims to have less than 5% of New Zealanders smoking by 2025.

The Local Government Act 2002 states that local government's purpose is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community both current and future.

The Health Act 1956 states that it is the duty of every council to improve, promote and protect public health.

3. Alignment with Council's Community Outcomes

This policy supports Kāpiti District Council's Community outcome:

- Strong communities - our communities are resilient, safe, healthy, thriving and connected.

4. Policy Objectives & Scope

This policy focuses on the reduction of exposure to second hand smoke, and de-normalisation of the use of tobacco and other smoking products by encouraging people to refrain from smoking or vaping in designated smokefree and vape-free outdoor public places.

Through this policy the Council will send a positive message that the health of our tamariki and rangatahi and the environment should be protected from the effects of smoking and vaping. It will also help empower non-smokers to speak up when people smoke in smokefree areas.

This policy is not a ban on smoking or vaping in a public place. Whether people choose to smoke or not, and limiting the availability of tobacco and vaping products, is outside scope of this policy. This policy is about positive messaging around what healthy environments look like and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

5. Shared goal & responsibility

This policy supports central Government's Smokefree Aotearoa vision of becoming a smokefree nation by 2025. 'Smokefree' is generally defined by the sector as the prevalence of smoking across all populations being less than 5 percent.

Achieving the Smokefree 2025 goal is a responsibility shared between central and local government, the health sector, tobacco control agencies, and communities. Each of these players has a different area of focus and an important role to play in contributing towards the smokefree goal.

6. Council's contribution – role and responsibilities

As a provider of social infrastructure on behalf of its communities, Council has a unique ability to engage and inform the public of Kāpiti. This policy focuses on areas where Council has the greatest influence and can work best towards achieving desired smokefree outcomes.

Areas of responsibility

Council has four broad areas of responsibility in relation to smokefree as a manager of:

- Assets and facilities
- Public places
- Events in the district
- Informing its communities.

The greatest area of influence Council has is to assist with the de-normalisation of smoking. Reducing the visibility of smoking (and vaping) has been proven to help reduce the uptake of smoking, especially by children and young people, and to support former smokers to remain smokefree.

7. What we want to achieve

In addition to supporting the national goal of being smokefree by 2025, Council's intention through this policy is to create:

'A healthy, clean environment where the people of Kāpiti, particularly our tamariki and rangatahi, can enjoy public spaces without exposure to second hand smoke and smoking related litter'.

The policy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved health and wellbeing.
- Fewer people smoke and vape in public places.
- Reduced exposure to second hand smoke for our young people.
- The prevalence of smoking and vaping in the Kāpiti district decreases over time.
- Smokers feel supported by their community to stop smoking.
- Fresh and clean environments.
- Increasing numbers of businesses designate their premises smokefree and vapefree.

8. Smokefree spaces

8.1 All current designated smokefree areas will also become vapefree from November 2023

- Existing signage at parks, playgrounds and sports fields will be updated to include vapefree messaging.

8.2 Smokefree spaces to be rolled out starting November 2023

- All council owned parks, reserves and sportsgrounds.
- All council owned playgrounds, including skateparks.
- Within 10 metres of outdoor public areas around council buildings and facilities.
- Train stations, bus stops and shelters
- Beaches, Lakes, Rivers.

8.3 Smokefree spaces and events to be included in 2025

- Outdoor dining and drinking areas on council owned land
- Events held at any of Council's designated smokefree public spaces will be smokefree
- Public events receiving Council funding will be encouraged to support smokefree/vapefree messaging.

Regional Public Health teams and Smoking Cessation services can support event organisers to deliver smokefree messaging through the provision of signage, resources, and education. Smokefree and vapefree messages, as well as smoking cessation services, are to be promoted at Council organised or supported events. External organisations are encouraged to promote smokefree/vapefree events when using Council designated smokefree/vapefree spaces.

9. Implementation

This policy will be delivered taking a cross-Council approach, working collaboratively with key stakeholders in Kāpiti's smokefree sector to share information, resources, and develop common approaches.

Implementation takes a non-regulatory approach to support individual choices for leading a healthy lifestyle. It relies on smokefree/vapefree signage and messaging to the community via the Council's website, social media, events and other communications channels and platforms. Compliance with the policy is entirely voluntary and it would not be enforced by Council staff.

How we are going to do it

Following adoption of the policy:

- display appropriately sized/themed signage with smokefree and vapefree messaging at council buildings, facilities, parks and reserves areas as signage needs to be replaced or added to newly designated smokefree/vapefree areas.
- prioritise those areas commonly used by children & young people as designated smokefree/vapefree areas.
- utilise council communications channels to promote smokefree/vapefree messaging and direct people to appropriate support services.

- on review, councils commitment to the Smokefree 2025 goal will be referenced in the Long-Term Plan and other strategies/plans as appropriate.

From 2025 Council will:

- promote voluntary uptake of smokefree outdoor dining/drinking to hospitality businesses. As smoking rates drop consider options to make all outdoor-dining and bar venues smokefree through condition of lease.
- make Smokefree and Vapefree signage/stickers available for event organisers and hospitality businesses.
- promote and facilitate the inclusion of stop smoking service providers at public events with a view to include a Smokefree/Vapefree requirement in all funding agreements as they are negotiated/renewed.
- include a 'no smoking/vaping clause in the Council's terms and conditions for hiring any Council venue.

10. Guiding principles

The following principles will be used to prioritise what activities the Council will take to implement this policy:

- The wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi is a central consideration.
- Areas where people congregate and socialise will be given priority to be smokefree/vapefree to have the most impact.
- Council will lead by example in prioritising all areas that people associate with council to be smokefree.
- Encouraging a change in smoking behaviour will be carried out in a way that is acceptable to, and supported by, Kāpiti's communities.