



ANTI-SMOKING POLICY

RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure there is **no smoking** on Melba College grounds, at Melba College function or Activities or near the College entrances.

Our College recognises the danger smoking and passive smoking causes to health, as well as the need for the College and its staff to provide positive role models to students.

To ensure that all students are made aware of the dangers of smoking and to ensure that a fair and reasonable process for responding to incidents of smoking is developed, understood and consistently followed, the Anti-Smoking Policy has been developed.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the whole College including events held off of College grounds and also applies to any times students are wearing the school uniform outside of College hours (eg. walking to and from school).

POLICY

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide with most cases attributed to smoking. Two of every three deaths in current long-term smokers can be attributed directly to smoking.

Smoking causes an estimated 20% of the nation's cancer disease burden each year and smoking is the biggest preventable cause of cancer.

In Australia, 90% of lung cancer cases are estimated to be a result of tobacco smoking.

Smoking can also cause 15 other cancer types, including oral cavity, larynx, uterine, cervix, ovary, urinary pharynx, bladder, kidney, ureter and bone marrow (myeloid leukaemia), oesophagus, stomach, bowel, liver, pancreas, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses.

Studies have shown that risk of dying increases with the number of cigarettes smoked. Smoking just 10 cigarettes per day doubles your risk of dying and smoking more than 25 cigarettes a day increases your risk of dying four-fold compared to those who have never smoked. Current smokers are estimated to die an average of 10 years earlier than non-smokers.

Tobacco smoke contains more than 7000 chemicals, over 70 of which are known to cause cancer. When cigarette smoke is inhaled these chemicals enter the lungs and spread through the body via blood and lymph systems.

Tobacco smoking is the largest preventable cause of cancer, responsible for more cancer deaths in Australia than any other single factor and it is also directly responsible for many heart and lung diseases. Smoking affects the smoker, as well as those around them.

Smoking and passive smoking are extremely dangerous to the health of employees, students and visitors to Melba College. For the protection of staff, students and visitors there is:

- **No smoking of cigarettes or any other substance permitted within any area of the College property**
- **No smoking of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) permitted within any area of the College property**
- **No smoking of cigarettes, e-cigarettes or any other substance permitted at any College related activity or function.**

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*, requires employers to provide a safe work place, and as far as practical, without risks to health. Consequently, smoking is not permitted in any area of the College property, nor at any College related activity or function, by students, staff or visitors. Failure by employees to comply with the Act is an offence.

In addition, staff members are not permitted to smoke outside of the College property within the view of students.

Student Health Support

The health risks associated with smoking will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all students.

Informed choices about smoking will feature amongst the harm minimization strategies employed in the College's Individual Schools Drug Education Strategy (ISDES), and our "Saying No To Drugs" program will include sections relating to peer pressure and smoking.

A combination of counselling and disciplinary measures will accompany any incidents of smoking and are at the discretion of the Principal. Typically, they may include a combination of:

- Internal or external suspensions
- Parent meetings
- Referral to counselling or other support services
- Reminder of this Anti-Smoking and other relevant Policies

Victorian Government and Department of Education and Training Legal Requirements

- Smoking is banned under the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Vic) within 4 metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds.
- It is a legislative requirement that Melba College installs suitable 'No Smoking' signs at all entrances to the school grounds.

Actions in Response to Victorian Government and Department of Education and Training Legal Requirements

Melba College Principals will:

- install 'No Smoking' signs at each entrance of the school premises
- enforce the ban to prohibit smoking on school grounds and within 4 metres of school entrances.

The smoking ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during and after school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups
- all activities that take place on school premises including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes

Melba College Principals will communicate the smoking ban to:

- all Department employees
- parents or carers via the school newsletter
- new students and parents or carers during the enrolment process

Melba College Principals will:

- ensure that the whole school community understands that smoking is banned on school premises and within 4 metres of school entrances
- remind the school community that smoking is banned at school-sanctioned events held off school premises
- encourage Department employees who require support complying with the ban to use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and contact [Converge International \(1800 337 068\)](https://www.convergeinternational.com.au)
- if necessary, arrange training workshops with [Quit Victoria \(03 9635 5529\)](https://www.quitvictoria.com.au) on how to support staff and young people to quit
- if advice is required about the drug education policy, curriculum learning strategies and the process of responding to a young person who has been smoking at school refer to the smoke free schools resources at the [Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/betterhealth/channel/section/63200/subsection/63200)
- make tobacco education information available

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) Banned:

- It is illegal to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, which contain nicotine in Victoria. On this basis students, teachers and employees of the Department are banned from possessing or using e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, containing nicotine on school grounds.
- It is not illegal in Victoria to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine.

However, Melba College bans all e-cigarettes including those that do not contain nicotine, on the basis of student, staff and visitor health and safety and that it may be difficult to determine if nicotine is being used.

Definitions

Electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking.

RELATED MELBA COLLEGE POLICIES

- Melba College Duty of Care Policy
- Melba College Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Melba College Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Melba College Drug Education Policy.

RELATED DET POLICIES

- [Smoking Ban Policy](#)
- [Health Care Needs Policy](#)

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006 \(Victoria\)](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 \(Victoria\)](#)
- [Tobacco Act 1987 \(Victoria\)](#)
- [The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 \(Victoria\)](#)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the Melba College's three-year review cycle.

Policy Reviewed by School Council	Person Responsible for Policy	Next School Council Review
2020	Assistant Principal - Accountabilities	2023