

## Fact Sheet

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### TOBACCO AND SMOKING

#### Queensland

- ✦ 17.2 % of Queenslanders aged 14 years and over smoke daily (males 18.9% and females 15.4%).<sup>1</sup>
- ✦ In 2005-06, there was an average of 3,485 deaths per year in Queensland due to tobacco smoking. 66 % of these deaths occurred in males.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ In 2006, almost one in five of all male deaths in Queensland and one in 10 female deaths were caused by smoking.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ Smoking was a leading contributor (8.1%) to the overall burden of disease in Queensland in 2003, contributing to 10% of the total burden for males and 5.9% for females.<sup>3</sup>
- ✦ Smoking resulted in an average 34,138 hospitalisations per year in Queensland in 2005/06-2006/07.<sup>4</sup>
- ✦ In 2004/05 tobacco was conservatively estimated to cost the Australian economy \$31.5 billion, representing more than half of all drug costs nationally. On a prorata basis, this amounts to 6.3 billion in Queensland.<sup>4</sup>
- ✦ Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer related death in both men and women in Queensland, with 1009 men and 531 women dying from the disease in 2006.<sup>5</sup>
- ✦ In 2006, there were 1,942 lung cancers diagnosed among Queensland residents. Of the 1,942 diagnosed, 1277 were for males and 665 were for females.<sup>5</sup>
- ✦ Lung cancer death rates vary across population groups and are a major cause of cancer related health inequality in Queensland. Lung cancer death rates are about 65% higher in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ There are significant differences in lung cancer incidence by geographic region in Queensland for males but not for females. The lung cancer incidence rate was significantly lower than the Queensland average for males living on the Sunshine Coast (17%), Brisbane North (9%), Brisbane South (7%) and the Gold Coast (7%). The lung cancer incidence rate was significantly higher than the Queensland average for males living in the Northern/North West (9%), Fitzroy/Central West (10%), Logan-Beaudesert (10%) and Redcliffe/Caboolture (21%) areas.<sup>6</sup>

#### Australia

- ✦ 16.6% of Australians aged 14 years and over smoke daily (males 19% and females 15.2%). A further 1.3% smoke at last weekly (males 1.4% and females 1.2%).<sup>7</sup>
- ✦ Smoking causes approximately 15,500 deaths in Australia each year.<sup>8</sup>
- ✦ Smoking is the risk factor that causes the greatest burden of disease in Australia.<sup>8</sup>
- ✦ Smoking is responsible for 9.6% of the total disease burden for men and 5.8% for women.<sup>8</sup>
- ✦ Indigenous adults are more than twice as likely to smoke as non-indigenous adults.<sup>9</sup>

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- ✦ A higher proportion of people living in remote areas reported daily or current smoking (28%) compared with those living in major cities (20%). This difference was particularly marked among males and females aged 25-44 years.<sup>10</sup>
- ✦ In Australia, smoking behaviour is inversely related to socioeconomic status, with disadvantaged groups being more likely to continue smoking.<sup>10</sup>
- ✦ Smoking accounts for 11.3% of all new cases of cancer and 20.9% of all cancer deaths.<sup>11</sup>

Percentage of cancer attributable to smoking:<sup>12</sup>

Cancer site	% attributable to smoking (males)	% attributable to smoking (females)
Lung	89	70
Larynx	69	60
Oral cancer	52	42
Oesophagus	50	41
Bladder	38	28
Vulva	-	32
Stomach	12	8
Pancreas	23	16
Anus	39	29
Kidney	17	12
Penis	21	-
Renal pelvis	51	43

### Young smokers

- ✦ Among Australian teenagers aged 14-19 years, 6% of males and 8.7% of females reported smoking daily (7.3% total).<sup>1</sup>
- ✦ 32,000 Queensland school children (aged 12-17 years) reported smoking in the past week.<sup>13</sup>
- ✦ The average age that people reported taking up smoking was 15.6 years.<sup>2</sup>

### More information

- ✦ Half of all long-term smokers will die prematurely from smoking related disease. Of those who die, half will die in middle age, losing 20-25 years of life expectancy.<sup>14</sup>
- ✦ Tobacco smoke contains more than 4000 chemicals,<sup>15</sup> many of which are highly toxic and 69 of which are known to be carcinogenic. There is no safe level of smoking.<sup>16</sup>

### Queensland Tobacco Registration<sup>17</sup>

From July 2006, the Queensland Government implemented new tobacco legislation. Current Queensland tobacco laws include:

- ✦ No smoking anywhere inside pubs, clubs, restaurants and workplaces (casino high roller rooms exempt).
- ✦ No smoking in commercial outdoor eating or drinking areas.

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- ✦ No smoking in the following outdoor public places: patrolled beaches, within 10 metres of playground equipment, major sporting venues and while standing within four metres of non-residential building entrances.
- ✦ The sales of tobacco products prohibited to children under 18 years of age.
- ✦ Mandatory training of employees who sell tobacco.
- ✦ Mandatory no-smoking and quit smoking signs where tobacco products are sold.
- ✦ Restrictions on how tobacco products can be displayed at retail outlets.
- ✦ The banning of tobacco advertising or competitions.
- ✦ Tobacco vending machines to be located in bar or poker machine areas only.

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