



## WELTEC SMOKEFREE CAMPUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2015

**These Frequently Asked Questions will be updated as appropriate**

### **Why did WelTec implement a smoke free campus policy?**

There are a number of reasons as follows:

- Around 5,000 people a year die from smoking related illnesses of which 400 of these die through passive smoking. WelTec has decided its current policy was proving ineffective in combating the very real risks to non-smokers of passive smoking; and
- Our student age range is getting younger and there is a responsibility to provide an environment that is suitable for school age children/young adults; and
- With a smokefree campus WelTec will provide a healthier and cleaner environment where staff and students can thrive and take pride in.

### **What does Smokefree mean and how is it different to what we had before?**

Prior to January 2014 there were specific areas around the campuses that were designated as a space that individuals can smoke. From January 2014 these areas were no longer be available which means that no-one – students, staff or visitors - can smoke at any of our campuses.

### **Are electronic cigarettes allowed?**

No. Smokefree means all types of smoking including vapour. Allowing the smoking of electronic cigarettes would send a confused message about being smokefree. While the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free places is not prohibited by the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990, individual organisations can ban the use of e-cigarettes as part of their own smoke-free policies. The Ministry encourages people to avoid using e-cigarettes in areas where smoking is not permitted.

In addition there are a number of types of vapour electronic cigarettes with studies still being carried out on their long term effect. According to the WHO, existing evidence shows that e-cigarette aerosol is not merely "water vapour" as is often claimed in the marketing of these products. While they are likely to be less toxic than conventional cigarettes, e-cigarette use poses threats to adolescents and fetuses of pregnant mothers using these devices.

### **Why not have designated smoking sites?**

Having designated smoking sites (such as gazebos, shelters or 'smoking posts') sends out a contradictory and conflicting message to smokers and would compromise WelTec's commitment to a smokefree campus.

### **When did it take effect?**

Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch campuses were already Smokefree. The new policy for all other campuses took effect from 1 January 2014.

### **Where does it apply?**

All WelTec facilities and grounds, including those leased by WelTec, will be smokefree. This includes the Petone, Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch Campuses

### **Who does it apply to?**

The policy will apply to all members of the WelTec community including staff, students, Council members, Advisory Committees, visitors and contractors. Staff inviting visitors onto the campus will be expected to advise them that WelTec is smokefree.

### **Are any other tertiary institutions smokefree?**

Yes, a number of tertiary educational institutions including; Victoria University of Wellington, Massey University, Whitireia, Otago Polytechnic, Canterbury University, NMIT, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, EIT and Auckland University have already become or are in the process of becoming smoke free.

### **What kind of support does WelTec provide to students and staff who are currently smokers?**

WelTec provides smoking cessation education and support. Further Information will be made available.

Other support will come from:

- Quitline which is New Zealand's largest provider of smoking cessation. The Quitline offers free telephone support, resources and low cost nicotine patches, gum and lozenges to New Zealand residents. To contact the quitline call free **0800 778 778** or visit **www.quit.org.nz**.
- Aukati Kai Papa is a cessation programme offered to Maori and their whanau through a range activities and products including free nicotine patches, gum and or lozenges, motivational counseling and ongoing support. Their Wellington branch is based in Seaview and can be contacted at 04 939 4631.

### **Won't the smokefree policy push smokers onto the street and give WelTec a bad look?**

We will be doing our utmost to ensure the areas around the Petone campus are kept clean and tidy. The Hutt City Council has been advised we are going Smokefree and they are responsible for areas such as the Hutt Rec. Staff and students who do smoke off site will be asked to be considerate of other users of the pavements and roads, and to dispose of their cigarette butts in an appropriate and tidy manner to avoid littering.

### **Isn't the smokefree policy unfair on smokers?**

We recognise that smoking is an addiction and we are not, through the implementation of the Smokefree Policy, saying that staff and students have to stop smoking. However, we are saying that from the beginning of 2014 people will not be able to smoke on WelTec property.

### **How did WelTec publicize the policy?**

There was extensive publicity leading up to the introduction of the new policy. This included the prospectus, enrolment material, online material and student handbook. The Smokefree policy is also included in student and staff orientations. Tutors also need to be proactive in discussing the smoke free policy and its implications during course orientation. Signage was put in place towards the end of 2013.

### **Won't the policy be disruptive to teaching with some students needing to take time to walk to the road for a smoke between lectures?**

Any disruption to classes will need to be addressed in the same way as other classroom management issues. If the issue becomes problematic, the Tutor would need to talk to his/her Associate Head of School or Head of School.

### **What can I do if I see someone smoking?**

WelTec will not be taking an enforcement approach. We will be taking an informative and supportive approach. From 2014 staff can support the policy as they support other Institute policy by:

- Politely reinforcing the no smoking policy and directing people off-site to smoke.
- Reminding staff and visitors that they can help by complying with the Smokefree policy by only smoking off-site.
- Promoting the smoking cessation programmes to colleagues and students.
- Taking the lead, if staff are smokers, by smoking off-site.

### **You can find more information about this at the following websites:-**

<http://www.smokefreecontacts.org.nz/>

<http://www.smokefreeoceania.org.nz/>

<http://smokefree.org.nz/>

<http://smokefree.org.nz/smokefree-2025>

<http://www.sfc.org.nz/>

<http://www.smokefreeschools.org.nz/>

<http://www.smokefreerockquest.co.nz/index.php/about-sfrq>

<http://smokefree.org.nz/world-smokefree-day>

### **If I have any questions who can I talk to?**

We have assembled a large project group to help implement the new policy. This group is made up of:

- Felicity Hislop (HR)
- Mark Broadbent (HR)
- Flo Poasa (HR)
- Kim Randerson (Student Experience)
- Amon Heremia (Student Experience)
- Tavita Filemoni (Pasifika)
- Hinemoa Priest (Te Whare Awhina)
- Caryn Ellis (Chief Executive Office)
- Mere Toss-Davidson (Learning Commons)
- Rae Ridley (International)
- Tony Dellabarca – (Academic Staff and TEU Tep)
- (Student Association Representative)

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to talk to members of this group.

**Felicity Hislop**  
**Project Manager**

**Mark Broadbent (Project Sponsor)**  
**Human Resources Director**