

# Policy and Procedures

## Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs Policy 2021

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### PURPOSE

Scouts Victoria has a responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of its Members. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear and unambiguous guidance to leaders in dealing with questions of smoking and alcohol consumption.

### CONTEXT

All Victorian Government schools have, since 2009, been required to provide a 'smoke-free' environment for all members of the school community on school premises and during school sponsored activities.<sup>1</sup> Research shows that smoke-free policies in schools are most effective when they involve all members of the school ie including the adults. Under Victorian legislation, smoking is prohibited in all enclosed workplaces and in motor vehicles where a person under the age of 18 years is present. Smoking is also restricted in public places where members of the public gather and may be exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke, including playgrounds, beaches, sporting grounds and all outdoor dining areas where food is available for consumption (including at organised outdoor community events).<sup>2</sup>

The National 'Policy and Rules 2017' prescribes specific policies and rules that all Members must comply with respect to smoking, alcohol and drugs, and specifically states that Branches shall regulate the consumption of alcohol at Association activities and on Association property, including prescribing rules for the safe consumption of alcohol by adults at Scouting functions.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all Members, supporters and formations of The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch ('Scouts Victoria') when undertaking Scouting activities.

### POLICY STATEMENT

It is Scouts Victoria policy that Scouting be undertaken in a 'smoke-free' environment and, consequently, smoking is not permitted on Scouts Victoria property nor during Scouting activities undertaken elsewhere - other than (i) where the Chief Commissioner has made a temporary exemption for adults to smoke; or (ii) where a property manager of a campsite has set aside a specific area for adults to smoke.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages by participants prior to or during day-to-day or adventurous activities is prohibited, whether or not those activities are held on or away from Scouts Victoria premises - other than where the Chief Commissioner has made a temporary exemption for adults to consume alcohol.

Adults may consume alcoholic beverages at functions where youth members are not present. Adults may also consume alcoholic beverages at functions where youth members are present - if the youth member's parent/s or guardian have been given prior notification that alcoholic beverages are to be served and the Youth Member is accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of, their parent/s or guardian. Youth Members may not consume or serve alcohol at functions.

The presence and use of illegal drugs at all Scouting activities and on all Scouts Victoria property is prohibited.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: Minister for Education's Order of 1 July 2009 as quoted in 'Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools'.

<sup>2</sup> See the Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic).

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Executive Manager

- Ensure that this Policy is made generally available to Members and placed on the Scouts Victoria website.

### Chief Commissioner

- On request, may provide temporary exemptions for Adults to smoke and/or consume alcohol on Scouts Victoria property or on a Scouting activity.<sup>3</sup>

### Person in Charge of a Scouting Activity

- Ensure that all participants are aware of, and adhere to, this Policy.
- Where the Chief Commissioner has approved an exemption for Adults to smoke and/or consume alcohol on Scouts Victoria property or on a Scouting activity, ensure that those Members legally permitted to smoke or drink alcohol and chose to do so, do so in a manner that is safe and consistent with this policy and its procedures.

### Adult Members

- Take personal responsibility for their smoking and consumption of alcohol and ensure that they adhere to this Policy.

## PROCEDURES

### Functions Where Alcohol is to be Served and/or Sold

Where it is intended to hold a function where alcohol is to be served and/or sold, in addition to meeting the above Scout policy requirements, all legal requirements must be met, including:

- meeting any requirements of the land-owner, lease or licence of the venue, and any planning permit conditions applying to the venue;
- ensuring that all persons serving or selling alcoholic beverages hold a current 'Responsible Serving Alcohol' (RSA) certificate; and
- where alcohol is to be sold, that the appropriate liquor licence is obtained.

### Hall and Campsite Hire

Where an outside organisation hires a Scouts Victoria property and seeks approval to serve and/or sell alcohol, the local formation may, if they wish, provide such approval subject to all legal requirements being met.

### Health Education

As part of the delivery of the Scouting program, section leaders should work with the respective section's youth council to provide age-appropriate factual information on smoking, alcohol and illegal drugs and support those Members feeling under pressure to smoke or drink.

### Supporting Smokers Seeking to Quit

Smoking is a complex health issue and quitting smoking is a stage process that varies for each individual. Members who smoke should be supported in a positive way and with understanding of the effects and difficulties they may face in quitting. 'Quit Victoria', a program of the Cancer Council of Victoria, is

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<sup>3</sup> For example, to provide a smoker's area for the duration of a camp or activity held over an extended period (eg a Jamboree or conference).

recommended as a place of referral to Members seeking advice on smoking as well as units seeking health education in smoking.<sup>4</sup>

### **Temporary Exemptions**

Where a temporary exemption for adults to smoke and/or consume alcohol on Scouts Victoria property or on a Scouting activity has been sought and granted, a specific area for this is to be set aside, clearly identified and actively monitored.

### **Areas Set Aside for Smokers at a Campsite**

Where a property manager, with the concurrence of the relevant campsite committee, chooses to set aside an area for smokers at a campsite for which they are responsible, the designated area must be outside, be clearly identified, only be made available for adults and not be in the vicinity of where youth are likely to be.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Member:** As defined by 'Policy 3.1 Members' of Policies and Rules 2017 (National Council of the Scout Association). Youth Member, being a Member under the age of 18 years.

**Property Manager:** For Scout Association properties, the Property Manager is the person designated by the Chief Commissioner to be the manager of a property, as listed in the Scouts Victoria extranet listing of Scouts Victoria properties.

**Smoking:** The term smoking includes the use of all tobacco or nicotine products that involve the inhalation of smoke including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and roll-your-owns, and using e-cigarettes (vaping).

**Supporter:** As defined by 'Policy 3.2 Members' of Policies and Rules 2017 (National Council of the Scout Association).

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS, REFERENCES**

- Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (Vic)
- 'Policy and Rules 2017', The Scout Association of Australia
- 'Quit Victoria' [www.quit.org.au](http://www.quit.org.au)
- Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic)
- [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/tobacco-reform](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/tobacco-reform)
- [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/victorias-tobacco-laws](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/victorias-tobacco-laws)

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments to this policy.

### **PROCEDURE OWNER**

The Chief Commissioner [chief.commissioner@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:chief.commissioner@scoutsvictoria.com.au)

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<sup>4</sup> Note that there is no legal age defined for the act of smoking, nor is it against the law to carry cigarettes or tobacco, however, it is illegal to sell or supply tobacco products to anyone under 18 years of age.