

New tobacco laws:

Train platforms, tram shelters and bus shelters

(commencing 1 March 2006)

Background

Smoking on covered areas of train platforms, tram shelters and bus shelters, is an increasing source of public complaint to the Government. Non-smokers find it uncomfortable and unhealthy to walk through crowds of smokers or be around smokers while waiting for public transport in confined spaces.

Given the enormous patronage on Victoria's public transport system, repeated exposure to smoking at train platforms, bus shelters or tram shelters is also likely to have a social influence on smoking patterns, particularly among young people who may not be regular smokers.

What is the new law?

From 1 March 2006 smoking will be prohibited in all covered areas of train platforms, tram shelters and bus shelters.

What is the penalty?

If a person smokes in a covered area of a train platform, bus shelter or tram shelter they may receive a fine or be prosecuted.

	Fine	Maximum Penalty if Prosecuted
Person smoking in a covered area	1.47 penalty units	5 penalty units

**the value of a penalty unit for 2005/06 is \$104.81 (indexed annually).*

***a second or subsequent offence may attract a graduated penalty.*

What is the Government doing to help implement the new law?

The Government will be working closely with Metlink and public transport operators to assist in implementing and communicating the new law to all commuters and the broader Victorian community.

Who is responsible for enforcing the new law?

Authorised officers under the *Transport Act 1983* are responsible for enforcing the new law.

For further information:

Tobacco Information Line: 1300 136 775

www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms/

Disclaimer: This fact sheet is intended only as a general guide and introduction to the relevant provisions of the *Tobacco (Amendment) Act 2005*. The Department of Human Services does not accept any liability for any expense, loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance upon this fact sheet.

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