

1. Purpose

Tobacco use (including smoking cigarettes, cigars, and using other tobacco products) is the single largest preventable contributor to death and illness in Australia. Smoking is known to contribute to a wide range of diseases such as cardiovascular disease (including heart attacks and stroke), cancer (including lung, mouth, liver, bladder and bowel cancers), lung disease (including chronic bronchitis and emphysema) and circulation problems (Scollo and Winstanley 2008).

Second-hand smoking is known to cause premature death and poor health in adult non-smokers, including heart disease and lung cancer. The health risk to children includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), lower birth weight, lung and respiratory infections, asthma and ear problems. There is no safe level of passive smoking: exposure to even small amounts of second-hand smoke is potentially harmful.

Maintaining a smoke-free environment is the best way to prevent the harms of second-hand smoke. Over the past two decades, Australia has introduced a number of restrictions on public locations in which people are able to smoke, including banning smoking in workplaces, on public transport, and in restaurants, pubs and clubs. Across Australia, all states have implemented or have declared intent to implement restrictions on smoking in some outside areas. In several states this has included bans on smoking in outside dining and drinking areas..

2. Policy

- 1) In recognition of the public health evidence of the social costs associated with smoking, Mars Institute provides a smoke, tobacco and vaping free environment for its staff, students and associates.
- 2) By eliminating environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure, MARS affirms its commitment to the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff, associates and students in its learning environment.
- 3) Smoking is prohibited at all Mars Institute campuses.
- 4) All Mars Institute campuses must be free from the sale of tobacco, its advertising, promotion and sponsorship.
- 5) Mars Institute will not accept direct or indirect funding from or enter into any partnership or other arrangement with the tobacco industry, an organisation in the tobacco industry or from a foundation that accepts funds from the tobacco industry.
- 6) This Policy shall be communicated to all staff and students with information made available to commencing students. Signage shall be posted at points of entry to Mars Institute campuses outlining the smoke-free environment. No ashtrays will be provided at any location on campus.
- 7) Mars will not be liable to pay any council fines received, so the fines will be passed on, where an employee/contractor, student or visitor has been found to have breached the Code within Mars Institute Campuses and Mars Institute Property as detailed below in the definitions.
- 8) Where a student, visitor, staff, contractor has been found to have breached the Code, HR or an authorised person may decide to impose some sanction.
- 9) Staff and students in breach of this policy will be subject to normal disciplinary procedures.



3. Definitions

- 1) associate: contractors, volunteers, visiting appointees and visitors to an Mars Institute campus and their staff.
- 2) contractor: a company or an individual (other than an Mars Institute employee) engaged to provide services to the college. Contractors include consultants.
- 3) environmental tobacco smoke (ETS): a combination of side stream smoke (smoke from the burning end of a tobacco product) and exhaled mainstream smoke (the smoke breathed out by a smoker). ETS is classified as a human carcinogen (cancer causing agent).
- 4) smoking: includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic nicotine devices and the use of other implements that emit harmful or toxic smoke for the purpose of inhaling.
- 5) tobacco product means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco.
- 6) An electronic cigarette (vape) is an electronic device that simulates tobacco smoking. It consists of an atomizer, a power source such as a battery, and a container such as a cartridge or tank. Instead of smoke, the user inhales vapor. As such, using an e-cigarette is often called "vaping"
- 7) Mars Institute Campus: any real property owned or controlled by the Mars Institute including leased premises.
- 8) Mars Institute property: all land, buildings, vehicles, facilities and other property owned or leased by or under the control of the Mars Institute.

: