



*****Media release*****

Welcome to our 100% smoke-free health service

Austin Health became 100% smoke-free on 1 July 2009.

While smoking has been banned within the hospitals for many years, 100% smoke-free means that smoking is no longer allowed in the outside areas of Austin Hospital, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre and Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

As a leading healthcare provider, it is important that Austin Health take a leading role in supporting the community towards making healthy choices. There is growing support in the wider community for smoke-free public places and encouraging new research has shown that eliminating smoking from public places and worksites may motivate smokers to quit altogether.

People who wish to smoke can do so outside the boundaries of Austin Health's three hospitals. Patients and staff who want to quit smoking are eligible for assistance and support from Austin Health's Smoking Cessation Unit.

For inpatients experiencing difficulty going without cigarettes, nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) will be available free of charge, as determined by the patient in partnership with their treating clinical practitioner.

Community support is essential in proving a clean and safe environment for our patients and staff and your cooperation is appreciated.