

1. Purpose

Orange College (OC) is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and inclusive learning and working environment. This policy supports that commitment by ensuring all OC campuses and facilities remain smoke-free and free from tobacco and vaping products. Smoking and the use of tobacco or vaping devices are well-established contributors to preventable illness, poor air quality, and disruption to wellbeing within education settings.

This policy aligns with OC's duty of care as a vocational education and training provider, relevant smoke-free laws and legislations, and the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2025 (SRTOs 2025), particularly Outcome Standard 2.6 on student wellbeing and Outcome Standard 4.3 on risk management. It also reflects national public health guidelines, including anti-smoking regulations in public and education institutions.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals within OC property, including:

- Students
- Academic and administrative staff
- Contractors
- Visitors
- Volunteers
- Affiliates

This policy applies to all OC campuses, buildings, vehicles, and leased premises and shall remain in force during all College-organised events or activities both on- and off-site. It covers all forms of tobacco and vaping products, including, but not limited to:

- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Pipes
- Electronic cigarettes or vapes
- Tobacco products

3. Definitions

Associate: contractors, volunteers, visiting appointees and visitors to an Orange College campus and their staff.

Contractor: a company or an individual (other than an Orange College employee) engaged to provide services to the college. Contractors include consultants.

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).

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.

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.

An electronic cigarette (vape): is an electronic device that simulates tobacco smoking. It consists of an atomiser, a power source such as a battery, and a container such as a cartridge or tank. Instead of smoke, the user inhales vapour. As such, using an e-cigarette is often called "vaping"

OC Campus: any real property owned or controlled by the Orange College, including leased premises.

OC property: all land, buildings, vehicles, facilities and other property owned or leased by or under the control of the College.

4. Policy

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 smoke is equally dangerous, contributing to 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 exposure to second-hand smoke is potentially harmful.

In response, 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 OC aligns with these public health efforts to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors.

OC enforces a smoke-free, tobacco-free, and vape-free environment for its staff, students and associates. To achieve this:

1. Smoking is prohibited at all OC campuses.
2. All OC campuses must be free from the sale of tobacco, its advertising, promotion and sponsorship.
3. OC 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.
4. 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 Orange College campuses outlining the smoke-free environment. No ashtrays will be provided at any location on campus.
5. OC 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 OC Campuses and OC property as detailed below in the definitions.
6. Where a student, visitor, staff, or contractor has been found to have breached the Code, HR or an authorised person may decide to impose some sanction.
7. Staff and students in breach of this policy will be subject to normal disciplinary procedures.