



**NEW SOUTH WALES NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION**  
**AUSTRALIAN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY FEDERATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH**



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# POSITION STATEMENT ON TOBACCO

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**Re-Endorsed by Annual Conference 2019**

**NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association**  
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# Position Statement on Tobacco

Note: This position statement should be read in conjunction with the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Policy on Drug and Alcohol Issues.

## THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES THAT:

- Tobacco and its associated problems present a significant burden for NSW<sup>1</sup>.
- Smoking rates remain unacceptably high, particularly among Aboriginal people and those from low socioeconomic, disadvantaged and other specific groups <sup>2,3</sup>.

## THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION ADOPTS THE POSITION THAT:

1. NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association is supportive of efforts being made to reduce the take-up and use of tobacco products in NSW under the New South Wales Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017<sup>3</sup>. Nurses and Midwives should act in a way that is consistent with this strategy.
2. Nurses and Midwives should abide by the NSW Health, Smoke-free Health Care Policies where applicable, including Local Health District smoke free by-laws which also apply to electronic cigarettes<sup>4</sup>. These policies include requirements of the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* and the *Smoke-free Environment Amendment Act 2018*<sup>5,6</sup>
3. Nurses and Midwives have an important role in the health care sector in reducing the risks to health associated with tobacco used by clients *Managing Nicotine Dependence: A Guide for NSW Health Staff*, produced by NSW Health as an evidence-based protocol which is a useful framework for the treatment of nicotine dependent patients<sup>7</sup>.
4. Nurses and Midwives can provide brief cessation advice opportunistically as a minimal clinical intervention during routine consultations with smokers, during admission and prior to their discharge from hospital.
5. The purpose of brief intervention for smoking cessation is to increase the individual's motivation to quit.
6. Assessment, information, education, support, nicotine replacement therapy and referral should be offered to all nicotine dependent patients whether they intend to continue smoking on discharge or not. A range of tools for health professionals to use and brief intervention strategies is readily available from NSW Health<sup>8</sup>.



## REFERENCES

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<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/atrac-framework.aspx>
3. NSW Ministry of Health (2012). *New South Wales Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017*.  
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4. NSW Ministry of Health (2015). *NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy* (PD2015\_003).  
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5. New South Wales Government. *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 no. 69*.  
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6. New South Wales Government (2018). *Smoke-free Environment Amendment Act No 13*.  
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7. NSW Ministry of Health (2015). *Managing Nicotine Dependence: A Guide for NSW Health Staff*.  
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8. NSW Ministry of Health. *Tools for health professionals – Tobacco and Smoking*.  
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