



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES



# Australian Parliament House Smoking Policy

**Date:** 25 August 2025  
**Approved:** Presiding Officers

**Contact:** Secretary  
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OFFICIAL

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## Date of effect

1. This policy was approved by the Presiding Officers on 25/8/2025.
2. This policy replaces all previous Australian Parliament House (APH) policies and any other related strategies, local guidance or directions on this subject, unless otherwise specified in this policy.

## Policy review mechanisms

3. The review of this policy will be undertaken by the Presiding Officers as required.
  - a. Designated area/s (as marked) adjacent to the Senate Chamber may be updated by the President of the Senate as required.
  - b. Designated area/s (as marked) adjacent to the House of Representatives Chamber may be updated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as required.
  - c. Other designated area/s (as marked) may be updated by joint agreement of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as required.

## Definitions

4. For the purposes of this policy:
  - a. the term **smoke**, means smoke from an ignited smoking product, or vapor from a personal vaporiser or e-cigarette;
  - b. **person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)** is the principal duty holder and replaces the term 'employer'. In most cases, the term PCBU will relate to one or more of the Parliamentary Departments, or other PCBUs with workers who work in the building (e.g. Department of Finance);
  - c. a **worker** includes employees, contractors or sub-contractors, work experience students or volunteers who work in an employment-like setting;
  - d. a **duty holder** is a person who has duties to manage health and safety risks;
  - e. the **workplace** is a place where work is carried out for a PCBU and includes any place where a worker goes while at work; and
  - f. in terms of WHS, **reasonably practicable** is all that is reasonably able to be done, considering, and weighing up all relevant matters.

## Legislative requirements

5. Under Section 19 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the **WHS Act**), a **PCBU** must ensure—so far as reasonably practicable—the health and safety of their workers and of other persons at the workplace is not put at risk from the work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking.
6. The health and safety of workers and other persons may be adversely affected by the inhalation of smoke. A PCBU is required to manage the risk of smoke to ensure workers and others are not exposed to the hazard. Exposure can occur where workers are entering or exiting the building where smokers are nearby or can occur inside buildings if smoke enters through doors, air conditioning or air intakes.
7. Section 20(2) of the WHS Act also requires a person with management or control of a workplace to ensure—as far as is reasonably practicable—that the workplace, the means of entering and exiting a workplace, and anything arising from the workplace are without risks to the health and safety of any person.

## Prohibitions on smoking

8. Australian Parliament House is a smoke-free building. Smoking and vaping (including electronic cigarettes) is not permitted anywhere within the building; in locations where smoke could enter the workplace; or where smoke could affect persons entering or leaving the building. Vaporisers, electronic cigarettes, etc are regulated under the same conditions as tobacco. Therefore, their use is prohibited in areas where smoking is not permitted.
9. Smoking and vaping are also prohibited:
  - a. within five metres of air intakes;
  - b. within ten metres of entrances to the building, including the walkway adjacent to the Prime Minister's courtyard;
  - c. on the seven first floor balconies accessed from the tea rooms located at the ends of the corridors;
  - d. within the Childcare Centre courtyard;
  - e. outside members and senators' offices;
  - f. within the government and opposition courtyard areas;
  - g. in the underground car parks provided for building occupants and visitors;
  - h. in designated outdoor eating and drinking areas;
  - i. within five metres of workers undertaking maintenance or cleaning work.

10. The designated smoking/vaping areas are shown on the building plan at **Attachment A**. Signs have been installed to indicate that smoking/vaping is permitted in these areas. No-smoking/vaping signs have been installed in other areas.

## Responsibility

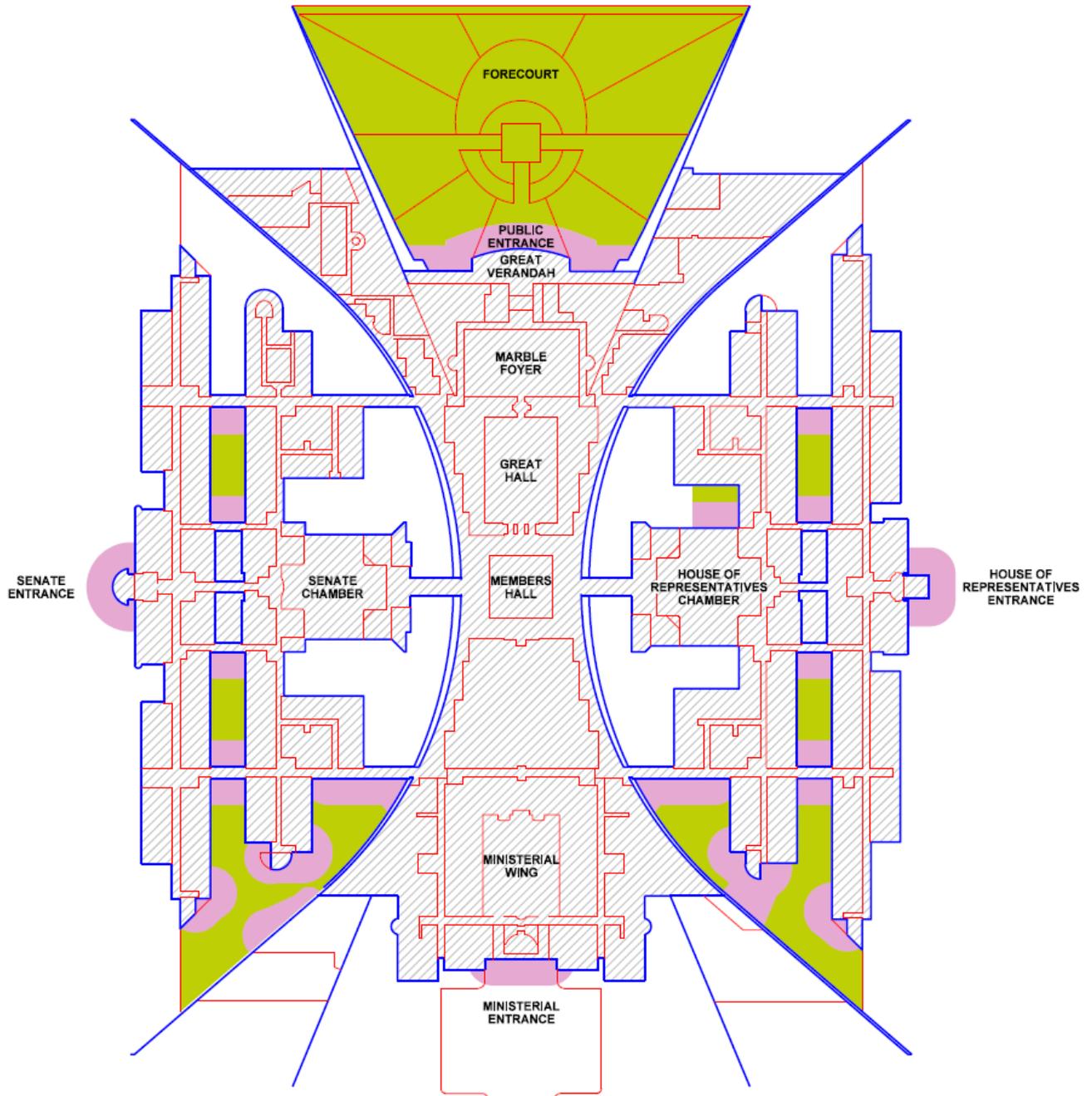
11. All building occupants are required to:
- a. be aware of this policy and what it means; and
  - b. comply with building smoke/vape free zones.
12. The *Australian Government's National Tobacco Strategy* seeks to improve the health of all Australians by reducing the prevalence of tobacco use and its associated health, social, environmental and economic costs, and the inequity it causes. In support of this strategy, building occupants aspiring to quit smoking or vaping can seek assistance through their employer. Further assistance is available through a range of programs including but not limited to the following:
- a. Quitline - 13 78 48 [quit.org.au](http://quit.org.au)
  - b. iCanQuit – [icanquit.com.au](http://icanquit.com.au)
  - c. List of quit contact by state and territory – [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)

## Reporting

13. To report concerns regarding smoking/vaping in the APH precinct or potential non-compliance contact [dps-whs@aph.gov.au](mailto:dps-whs@aph.gov.au). Individuals are asked to provide the time, date, location and a description of any individual/s involved. The Department of Parliamentary Services WHS team will review the information and either take appropriate action or refer the matter to the relevant employer for follow-up.

# Attachment A-Designated Smoking/Vaping areas

## DESIGNATED SMOKING/VAPING AREAS WITHIN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE



**Green** Designated smoking/vaping areas - these areas are fully accessible to people of all abilities.

**Pink** No smoking/vaping within 10m of entrances or 5m of air intakes.

All other areas inside and outside Australian Parliament House are non-smoking/no vaping.