

10.5 - ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUG AND OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

The Scout Association aims to promote a healthy life-style. The misuse of alcohol, and the use of tobacco and substances of abuse contravene that aim.

Members of the Scout Association must have regard to the law at all times.

In this statement 'Scouting event' (or Section 'event') refers to a training/activity program for youth members.

ALCOHOL

It is an offence to supply persons under the age of 18 with alcohol and it is an offence for a person under 18 to consume alcohol in a public place.

1. Youth members under the age of 18 years must not consume alcohol at any Scouting event.
2. Adult members of the Association (including Rovers) must not consume alcohol at Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer or Group events or at other times when responsible for the care and safety of youth members.
3. The Group Leader may approve the consumption of alcohol at an appropriate Group Committee social or fundraising function and the appropriate Commissioner may approve the consumption of alcohol at a Region or Branch social or fundraising function after being satisfied that the rules contained in this policy will be heeded and that all relevant legal requirements have been met.
4. Alcoholic drinks are not to be taken to any training course by participants.
5. Persons under the influence of alcohol must not participate in any Scouting event.

TOBACCO

In the Australian Capital Territory, it is an offence to supply a person under the age of 18 years with cigarettes or tobacco products.

It is undesirable for *Scouts* to smoke for the following reasons: (a) the adverse effect on their own health; (b) it is a bad example to younger members; and (c) the adverse effect on good public relations.

1. Smoking is not permitted inside Scout premises (including Scout owned vehicles and tents).
2. Adult members of the Association (including Rovers) should not smoke at Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer or Group meetings, or on other Scout occasions and should not smoke in front of young people.

DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE

This issue affects everyone, not just young people. The Scout Association's youth training program, which has the goal of personal development, encourages members to develop responsible attitudes concerning illegal drugs and other substances which can affect a person's control of their thoughts and actions. The use of illegal drugs and other substances of abuse is contrary to the aims of the Association.

1. No member of the Movement should experiment with or use these substances and no Leader should condone their use.
2. Illegal drugs are not to be taken to any Scouting event.
3. Persons under the influence of illegal drugs or other substances of abuse must not participate in any Scouting event.

AUTHORITY

This policy statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 25 November 1987 and revised on 23 June 1993.