

## **10.5 - ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUG AND OTHER SUBSTANCE USE**

1. 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.
2. Members of the Scout Association must have regard to the law at all times.
3. In this Policy, 'Scouting event' (or Section 'event') refers to any training/activity program for youth members. It does not include activities for adult members at over 18 year events unless specified later in this policy.

### **ALCOHOL**

4. 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.
  - a. Youth members under the age of 18 years must not consume alcohol at any Scouting event.
  - b. Adult members of the Association (including Rovers) must not consume alcohol at Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer Scout or Group events or at other times when responsible for the care and safety of youth members.
  - c. The Group Leader may approve the consumption of alcohol at an appropriate Group Committee social or fundraising function. The Commissioner responsible for the function 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.
  - d. Alcoholic drinks are not to be taken to any training course by participants.

### **TOBACCO**

5. In the Australian Capital Territory, it is an offence to supply a person under the age of 18 years with cigarettes or tobacco products.
6. It is undesirable for any member of Scouts ACT to smoke for the following reasons:
  - a. it may cause an adverse effect on their own health and on the health of those nearby.
  - b. it is a bad example to other members
  - c. the high likelihood of an adverse effect on good public relations.
7. Furthermore:
  - a. Smoking is not permitted inside Scout premises (including Scout owned vehicles and tents).
  - b. Adult members of the Association (including Rovers) should not smoke at Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer Scout or Group meetings, or on other Scout

occasions and should not smoke in front of young people. Smoking should only ever happen in designated smoking areas.

## **DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE**

8. 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.
  - a. No member of the Movement should experiment with or use these substances and no Leader should condone their use.
  - b. Illegal drugs are not to be taken to, or consumed at any Scouting event.

## AUTHORITY

9. This policy or amended policy was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 25 November 1987, 23 June 1993 and 26 October 2017.