Circular 157:01:14

To: Club Presidents  
Club Secretaries  
Junior Coordinators  
Chief Instructors  
State Officers  
Club Captains  
Patrol Captains  
Coaches  
Team Managers  
Coaches  
Team Managers  
Regional Officers  
LSOC Executive  
Aquatic Sports Executive

Cc: State Officers  
Regional Officers  
LSOC Executive  
Aquatic Sports Executive

From: Darren McLeod – Director, Lifesaving Services

Date: 22 January 2014

Subject: Smoking on Victorian Patrolled Beaches

For additional details on this Circular please contact:
Lifesaving Operations on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lifesavingvictoria.com.au
Circulars are available at www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au/circulars

This circular is prepared to remind all clubs of legislation that supports healthy workplace practices within and around patrolled beaches in Victoria.

As per Circular 10:10:12, from 1 December 2012 legislation was enacted that banned smoking at all of Victoria’s patrolled beaches in the area between the red-and-yellow lifesaving flags and within a 50 metre radius of a red-and-yellow flag.

Under the Victorian Tobacco Act 1987 smoking is now unlawful within these areas and could result in being issued with an infringement penalty of up to $141.

Some Councils have also introduced local laws that prohibit smoking in public outdoor places, including other beach areas. Please refer to your local Council for further information.

This ban will protect both beach users and patrolling members from exposure to second-hand smoke, stop children seeing people smoke (which may influence their decision to smoke as adults) and reduce environmental damage from butt littering.

Role Lifesavers Play
Lifesavers will not have a role in enforcing the Tobacco Act provisions banning smoking on patrolled beaches in Victoria. However, along with any other beach users, lifesavers are free to remind any smoker of the ‘No smoking’ signs.

Resources
Please note the Victorian Department of Health has a number of resources on their website including brochures and factsheets available for Life Saving Clubs to display around their club house regarding no smoking between the flags linked below:

Further to this the Department of Health also has generic no smoking resources available on their website linked below: