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## SMOKING HOT SPOTS IN THE CITY AND SOUTHERN SYDNEY

Smokers are urged to be familiar with new outdoor designated areas as people continue to light up at bus stops and public transport hubs in the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD).

A recent assessment by SESLHD public health officers found that smokers were observed lighting up in public areas where smoking is banned.

SESLHD Public Health Unit Director Professor Mark Ferson said problem areas include those heavily frequented by commuters and shoppers.

“We regularly monitor compliance and our tobacco compliance environmental health officer has identified a handful of key problems areas,” Professor Ferson said.

Locations where there has been a large accumulation of tobacco related litter, people observed smoking within four metres of an entrance, and formal complaints include:

### Central Business District:

- Outside the Queen Victoria Building (corner George and Druiitt Streets)
- Wynyard Station (George Street entry)
- Wynyard Station bus stops (Carrington Street)
- Bondi Junction Bus Interchange

### Southern Sydney:

- Hurstville Bus Interchanges (at Forest Road and Ormonde Parade)
- Kogarah Bus Interchange (Railway Parade)
- Street entry to the Ramsgate TAB (Ramsgate Road).
- Bus stop and entry to Westfield Miranda

Professor Ferson said the pattern was similar to problem areas identified in other parts of the state.

“There also tends to be a high prevalence of smoking in designated spectator areas at sporting events and near public transport including taxi ranks,” he said.

“It is a concern that people, including those at risk of breathing complications, struggle to live in a smoke free environment.”

A tobacco legislation campaign launched this Winter to reinforce awareness of amendments to the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000*, which ban smoking in these areas:

- Within 10 metres of children’s play equipment in outdoor public spaces;
- Swimming pool complexes;
- Spectator areas at sports grounds or other recreational areas during organised sporting events;
- Railway platforms, light rail stops, light rail stations, bus stops, taxi ranks and ferry wharves;
- Within 4 metres of a pedestrian access point to a public building;

Authorised NSW Health Officers can issue an on the spot fine to offenders of \$300. A campaign including radio, bus shelters, street furniture, metrolites and social media has been launched to target problem areas across NSW.

For more information visit: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smokefree-legislation.aspx>

**Ends**

**Media note: for interviews please phone Joel Penson on 0428 628 722 or 0409 973 612.**

### Media contacts:

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