

Cigarette Vending Machines under new smoking laws

Firstly we want to advise all members that information we have sent out previously through our newsletter on this issue was advice received from the Health Department and it appears some of their information was wrong or at least misleading. We have been dealing with one or two vending machines businesses that have experienced the same problems as we have. I have just written to the Minister for Health at a state level seeking further clarification for members on this important issue and will provide the response when I receive it.

Below is a further response that we have received from the Health Department and we supply it to our members for your information and noting.

We would like to provide further clarification to all members regarding the new Tobacco Control measures to be introduced on the 1st of March with regard to cigarette vending machines.

No venue is permitted to have a vending machine available in a public area of their business. All cigarette vending machines or sales units must be located behind the bar (the requirement is 'service area' which may or may not include a bar, depending on the type of premises) and only operated by venue staff. Only one vending machine is allowed per liquor licensed premise.

Traditional vending machines which display pricing and branding or promotional images of cigarettes are only permitted (again in the service area) behind the bar or counter in venues with a PROHIBITED designation (that is where children are not permitted under any circumstances. E.g. gaming rooms, some public bars and night clubs).

Venues with only restricted designations (where children are permitted under some circumstances) are not permitted to have a cigarette vending machine in the venue at all. However, the use of sales units which do not display pricing, branding or promotion of cigarettes are permitted behind the bar or counter.(service area)

The Department of Health and Human Services are happy for venues to call them and they will arrange for a tobacco control officer on (03) 6336 2279 North/North West or (03) 6222 7726 (South) to visit the venue to clarify where cigarettes may be sold from.

The THA will continue to deal with the state government and Department of Health on this issue and provide any advice that members require. Please just call Stacey or Steve in the office on 6224 7033 if you have any further queries or questions.

Cheers
Steve