

CHAPTER 2

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

INTRODUCTION

6.2.1 Alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances can be addictive in nature and can cause adverse effects on health. The potential adverse health effects may be more pronounced on youth and can also impact on behaviour and the ability to make rational and safe decisions. Commanders, managers and supervisors should give additional consideration to the use of alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances by adults representing Defence through engagement with youth. As youth fall into a class of person described as vulnerable, a higher standard of care of youth is required by the Commonwealth, including relationships with alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances.

6.2.2 Youth face specific risks in relation to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Rates of risky behaviours are generally higher among young people than the broader population.

POLICY INTENT

6.2.3 The intent of this policy is to ensure all adults engaging with youth in Defence contexts, and youths themselves understand their responsibilities and obligations concerning the use and management of alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

6.2.4 **Principle 1** - When engaging with Defence, youth know and understand their obligations concerning alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited substances.

6.2.5 **Principle 2** - Commanders, managers, supervisors and the adult peers of youth engaging with Defence must understand their responsibilities concerning the use and management of alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited substances when interacting with youth.

POLICY PRACTICES AND MEASURES

Principle 1

6.2.6 Youth must comply with all relevant state or territory legislation. The possession, supply, sale or use of alcohol, tobacco or prohibited substances by people under 18 is a criminal offence and will result in a report being made to the relevant state or territory police.

6.2.7 Youth are prohibited from actively participating in fundraising activities where alcohol and/or tobacco constitute the prize.

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6.2.8 Circumstances involving any youth impaired by alcohol or other prohibited substances may be breaking the law and be in breach of the relevant code of conduct and must be appropriately reported (refer Section 3 Chapter 3).

Principle 2

6.2.9 ADF personnel, APS staff, contractors and volunteers must not assist youth with the purchase of, or access to alcohol, tobacco, prohibited substances or other adult classified products.

6.2.10 The consumption of alcohol by adults who are managing or supervising youth during the conduct of Defence youth programs is prohibited.

6.2.11 Commanders, managers and supervisors are to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to prevent the purchase and consumption of alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances by youth when on Defence property or at a Defence sponsored function.

6.2.12 Commanders, managers and supervisors at all levels are expected and required to take reasonable precautions to identify situations or conditions that may contribute to alcohol-related harm in young people. They are also obligated to take appropriate action to prevent, reduce and manage risk of harm wherever and whenever they occur.

6.2.13 Adults are permitted to smoke when participating in youth engagement activities. Discretion should be exercised to ensure this occurs out of the visibility of youth where possible. Smoking should be managed in accordance with [Defence's Smoke-free Workplace policy](#).

REPORTING

6.2.14 Failure to comply with the legal restrictions on alcohol, tobacco and prohibited substances will result in a report being made to the relevant state or territory police and constitutes a breach of Defence's Youth Safe Code of Conduct. Such behaviour may result in further disciplinary action as determined by the Group or Service.

6.2.15 A Youth Protection Compliant and Event/Incident Management must be reported in accordance with Section 3, Chapter 3 and relevant Service procedures where applicable.

6.2.16 All reporting must be managed in accordance with [Defence Privacy Policy](#) and Section 1 Chapter 2.

Accountable Officer: Chief of Joint Capabilities (CJC)

Policy Officer: Head Joint Support Services Division (HJSSD)