

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS TO GO SMOKE-FREE

From January 1, 2008, Peel Health Campus will join other Department of Health-owned hospitals and health facilities around the State in becoming completely smoke-free.

The State Government has introduced the Statewide health policy Smoke-Free WA to protect staff, patients and visitors from the harmful effects of smoking.

Under the policy, smoking will not be permitted inside or outside hospital buildings, in cars parked on the hospital site or anywhere else on hospital grounds.

The policy will apply to everyone on site, including staff, patients, visitors and contractors.

A Smoke-Free WA taskforce is working over time at Peel Health Campus to ensure the smooth transition of the new policy.

Taskforce chairman and PHC executive manager Steve Wisnewski-Smith said Health Solutions WA, the private company which manages the Government-owned public hospital, would offer assistance to patients and staff who smoke to ensure they are supported during the introduction of the Smoke-Free WA policy.

“As a health organisation committed to the best interests of the community we serve, we believe we have an obligation to set an example,” Mr Wisnewski-Smith said.

“With a company motto of ‘Heading Forward in Health’, we certainly see this initiative as being totally consistent with what we seek to be as an organisation.

“This is an important step in providing a healthier environment for the community and our staff,” Mr Wisnewski-Smith said.

Peel Health Campus manager of education and development and task-force member Janice Vickery said the move was not about forcing people to quit but about providing a smoke-free environment for the health and well being of all.

Patients are recommended to consult their general practitioner before admission for elective procedures.

An assessment of patients’ smoking needs will be undertaken on admission and implementation of a plan to quit if desired. QUIT packs will also be available if required.

For more information, contact Wendy Pryer on 0437 380 141