



Body Piercing

This factsheet is designed to provide guidance to body piercers who are either planning to set up a body piercing business or purchase an existing business in the Gladstone Region.

Introduction

Piercing can be performed on a number of places on the human body. This fact sheet relates to all body piercing, except ear and nose with a closed piercing instrument that does not come into contact with the person's skin or mucous membrane in addition to being fitted with a sterilised single-use disposable cartridge containing sterilised jewellery and fittings. Body piercers must follow correct hygiene practices to prevent bacterial, fungal and viral infections including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. They also must have accredited infection control qualifications and ensure that their premises are licensed with Council. Tongue splitting and ear pointing also require applications. Eyeball tattooing and tattoo removal do not currently require applications.

How do I apply for a body piercing business licence?

People wanting to establish a new body piercing business must first complete a Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services Licence Design Approval and lodge it with Council with an application fee. Refer to the Gladstone Regional Council website (www.gladstone.qld.gov.au) for a copy of the application form and to view the current fees and charges.

Council may take 4-6 weeks to process the applications and may ask for more information from the applicant.

The premises must be constructed in compliance with the Queensland Development Code – Part 15 – Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services. The Premises must also be licensed under the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* with Council.

Structural items required for all body piercing salons include:

- Suitable hand washing facilities including wrist, elbow, knee, foot or sensor operated taps;
- Floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning; and
- Joints between walls, floors and ceilings so as to provide maintenance of hygienic conditions.

What do I need to do if I want to buy an existing body piercing salon?

When purchasing an existing body piercing salon, the applicant is required to apply to Council to transfer the existing licence. All transfer applications must be signed by the current licence holder authorising the transfer. Council recommends the applicant applies for a health compliance search to identify any non-compliance issues associated with the business prior to purchase.

Hygiene Hints for operating a body piercing salon

Anyone operating a body piercing service is required to comply with the *Public Health (Infection Control for personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*; Queensland Development Code – Part 15 – Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services; and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012. The Act requires business proprietors and operators who provide personal appearance services to the public to take all reasonable precautions and care to minimise infection risks to clients. A copy of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012 can be found at www.health.qld.gov.au

Please note it is now a requirement of the infection control guidelines to keep records regarding client contact details, procedure details, sterilisation records of equipment, staff training and various other areas of the business. Refer to the guidelines for further information.

How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



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www.gladstone.qld.gov.au