



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Tattooing

This fact sheet is designed to provide guidance to tattooists who are either planning to set up a tattooing business or purchase an existing tattooing business in the Gladstone Region.

Introduction

This fact sheet relates to all tattooing, except the staining of skin using henna.

Tattooing is the process of puncturing the skin with a needle to introduce coloured pigment leaving a semi/permanent mark, including cosmetic enhancement (also called cosmetic tattooing, pigment implants, semi/permanent creations, permanent makeup or derma-impigmentation). Cosmetic enhancement involves the same method of application as tattooing and is therefore subject to the same controls and procedures.

The *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* categorises tattooing as a higher risk personal appearance service and requires tattooists to have accredited infection control qualifications and to ensure their premises are licensed with Council.

The potential for serious infection occurs during tattooing. It is essential for tattooists to be fully aware of the potential dangers of their procedures and to understand the precautions that need to be taken to prevent bacterial, fungal and viral infections, such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

How do I apply for a Tattoo Business licence?

People wanting to establish a new tattooing business must first apply and receive approval from the Department of Justice-Office of Fair Trading as a 'Suitable Operator' (*Tattoo Parlours Act 2013*) before they apply to Council for a licence to operate.

Once approval is received from the Department of Justice-Office of Fair Trading, applicants 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).

www.gladstone.qld.gov.au) for a copy of the Application Form and to view the current fees and charges.

Council may take four to six 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 5.2 – 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 tattooing premises 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
- Joints between walls, floors and ceilings such to provide maintenance of hygienic conditions

What do I need to do if I want to buy an existing tattoo business?

When purchasing an existing tattoo business, the applicant will still require approval from the Department of Justice-Office of Fair Trading prior to applying to Council. Once approved, the applicant can 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 Tattoo Business

Anyone operating a Tattoo service is required to comply with the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*; Queensland Development Code – Part 5.2 – Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services; and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012. The Act requires that business proprietors and operators who provide personal appearance services to the public must 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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