



JOHN ELFERINK MLA | **Member for PORT DARWIN**
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MEDIA RELEASE

MOVING TOWARDS A TOTAL SMOKING BAN IN TERRITORY PRISONS

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Tobacco will no longer be sold to prisoners ahead of a total ban on smoking in prisons in the Northern Territory.

Prisoners yesterday had a final opportunity to purchase tobacco through the prison's canteen system before being classed as contraband.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said from next month, the Northern Territory will become the first jurisdiction in Australia to impose a full ban on tobacco.

"From July 1, the ban will apply to all prisoners, staff and visiting friends and relatives of prisoners," Mr Elferink said.

"People who are found to be in possession of tobacco or tobacco related products after 1 July will have these products confiscated and destroyed and may face disciplinary action under prison regulations.

"Over the past year, prisoners and staff have had access to comprehensive non smoking campaigns and programs including optional use of nicotine patches and access to the Quit Line.

"This ban aims to create a healthier Territory population with the harmful effects of smoking being widely known.

"The Country Liberals Government is taking the necessary steps to protect the health of prisoners within the corrective system.

"The smoking ban is part of a wider Healthy Choices program within correctional institutions where prisoners are encouraged to exercise and make healthier food and beverage choices," Mr Elferink said.

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