The university's Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee (OHSPC) has developed a draft policy on smoking, the aim of which is to establish a healthy environment by reducing or eliminating tobacco smoke. It is now seeking feedback.

If adopted, the policy also would reduce the risk of fire, protect sensitive equipment and enable the university to comply with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985. Under the act, employers must provide a healthy and safe work environment.

The OHSPC recognises that passive smoking is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from the involuntary inhalation of tobacco smoke.

The draft policy deals with the occupational health aspects of smoking rather than public health considerations. That is, it is aimed at reducing passive smoking and protecting individuals sensitive to tobacco smoke rather than encouraging smokers to give up the habit. The draft proposes, however, that the university provide support to smokers who wish to take part in a quit program.

All heads of budgetary units, zone OHS committee chairpersons and health and safety representatives would have received a copy of the draft policy by now.

The policy contains two options: the first provides for a total smoking ban in all areas of buildings owned or occupied by the university and in all university vehicles. The university grounds and non-communal areas in the halls of residence and flats are excluded. Option two provides for a partial ban.

Heads of budgetary units have been requested to distribute the draft widely among staff and students. Due to the emotive nature of the issue they have been urged to organise a meeting of all staff in order to discuss the options.

Comments should be submitted through the relevant zone OHS committee by 9 March. The comments will be considered by the OHSPC on 22 March and a final version of the policy will be put to Council for approval.

It is expected that the policy will come into effect mid-year.
The art of parking

Staff are reminded that Monash University is gazetted under the Road Safety Act 1986 and its regulations are enforced throughout the year.

Assistant Manager, Central Services, Mr Harry Wright says a recent increase in the number of parking infringement notices has highlighted two problems.

First, new staff members are not being informed of parking regulations. Departments are requested to include parking information in their induction procedures to ensure that these staff are not disadvantaged.

Second, theatre patrons and students attending summer school or sporting and recreation activities are being advised that parking restrictions are not in force over summer. This is not so. Free parking for 1500 vehicles is available on campus and visitors should be directed to these.

New ACU titles

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) has published fully revised editions of two of the four biennial titles in its Award Series. They are Awards for Commonwealth University Academic Staff 1990-92 and Financial Aid for First Degree Study at Commonwealth Universities 1990-92.


For further information, contact the ACU at John Foster House, 36 Gordon Square, London, England WC1H OPF.

Changes at NBEET

Dr Gregor Ramsay, formerly chair of the Higher Education Committee of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training (NBEET), has been appointed chair of NBEET.

He succeeds Dr Robert Smith, who will replace Professor Don McNicol as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England.

Time to swap staff handbooks

Staff who have not arranged changeover of staff handbooks are asked to do so by 16 February.

On-campus departments can collect the new handbooks from the Stationery Store in exchange for copies of the old ones. Off-campus departments should send their handbooks to Stationery, giving details of those who are to receive the new handbooks.

Library adds new databases

The Main Library has added two new databases to its collection of reference resources in CD-ROM (Read Only Memory) format.

ABI/INFORM provides easy access to thousands of current articles in the area of business and management. The database covers about 800 professional publications, trade magazines and academic journals.

Sociofile is a sociology database that includes material on social planning and social policy issues. Sociofile corresponds to the printed abstracting service, Sociological Abstracts.

Both databases are available for use in the Main Library at no cost. Further details are available from the Information Desk, Main Library.

Computer talk-fest for Monash

The 13th Australian Computer Science Conference (ACSC-13) will be held at Monash University from 7-9 February.

The aim of the conference is to enable computer scientists working in a variety of academic and other institutions to exchange ideas and information.

The conference will feature two keynote speakers, about 50 technical papers, and displays of Australian commercial computer products and computing books by various national and international publishers.

Pre-conference group meetings to discuss databases, image processing and analysis, and information systems will be held at Monash on 6 February.

For further information, contact the department of Computer Science on ext 3900.

Month at Monash

Details of events for inclusion in Month at Monash, a selection of the month's highlights at Monash published in its Saturday Extra in the Age on the first Saturday of each month, should be forwarded in writing to the department of External Relations and Alumni Affairs.

Deadlines for advertisements are as follows:

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Mass times

The Chaplains’ Office advises that Mass for the Monash Catholic community is celebrated by Father Anthony Vidot in the Small Chapel of the Religious Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1.10 pm, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 12.10 pm. Sunday Mass is celebrated in the Large Chapel at 5.10 pm.

Union catering hours

Union catering hours between 5 and 23 February are as follows (Mondays to Fridays only):

Small Caf, 8 am - 5 pm (breakfast 8 - 9.30 am); West End Caf, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm; Asian food servery, 11.30 am - 2 pm; Cellar Room, 11.30 am - 1.30 pm; Deli, 10.30 am - 2.30 pm.

Fin Review goes higher ed

The Financial Review is to go ahead with plans for a regular weekly section on higher education (see SOUND 2-90).

"Campus -- Higher Education Today", published each Tuesday, will "examine the upheaval in Australia's higher education institutions resulting from Federal Government policy initiatives over the past two years".

Academic advertising

The university has subscribed to The Directory, a fortnightly advertising service for professional educators and scientists.

Budgetary units may place advertisements in the publication, together with staff advertisements in other publications, through Personnel Services.

National distribution of The Directory is about 4500, of which Monash receives 70 copies. Advertising costs, to be paid by budgetary units, are $135 for a normal half-page ad.