



## ACEM POLICY ON PUBLIC HEALTH

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1. This document is a policy of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and relates to the role of emergency departments in supporting public health initiatives.
- 1.2. The policy is applicable to both public and private hospital emergency departments throughout Australasia.

### 2. POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1. The College defines Emergency Medicine thus:

*Emergency medicine is a field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of episodic undifferentiated physical and behavioural disorders; it further encompasses an understanding of the development of pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency medical systems and the skills necessary for this development. (International Federation for Emergency Medicine 1991)*

- 2.2. The College recognises and endorses an active role for emergency departments in national and international strategies aimed at emphasising the prevention of illness and injury and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.
- 2.3. All emergency departments should participate as much as practicable in the promotion of health and the prevention of illness and injury through the display and provision of health promotional material and through the provision of advice and guidance to patients.
- 2.4. The College will assist and partner with other organisations whose purpose is the promotion of health and the prevention of illness and injury.
- 2.5. The College either alone or in partnership with other organisations develop policies and guidelines which address the issues of public health as they relate to emergency medicine.

### 3. PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS

- 3.1. The College will maintain a Public Health Committee which will be charged with the development of policies and guidelines relating to public health issues and with liaison with public health organisations to explore opportunities for the involvement of the College in conjoint or mutually supportive activities.
- 3.2. Fellows of the College will ensure that emergency departments provide health promotional material wherever practicable and that the departments have clinical procedures in place which ensure that every clinical contact is an opportunity to promote health and prevent illness and injury.

### 4. PROCLAMATION (Office use only)