



Victoria Government Gazette

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Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

APPROVED FORM OF INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO CLIENTS

- 1 Regulation 35 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 imposes an obligation on proprietors or occupiers of registered premises that perform tattooing, ear piercing, body piercing and other processes involving skin penetration to provide written information in the form approved by the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services to clients about the risks and safeguards associated with these processes before they are carried out. Failure to comply with the obligation set out in regulation 35(2) is an offence punishable by up to 20 penalty units.
- 2 Regulation 35(3) and (4) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 provide that the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services may approve the form of written information to be provided to clients for the purposes of regulation 35(2) and that the approved forms must be published in the Government Gazette.
- 3 I, Dr Brett Sutton, Chief Health Officer and delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, give notice that I have approved the form of written information required to be provided to a person for each class of business detailed below.

SPECIAL

4 The approved form of information for a business involving tattooing is:

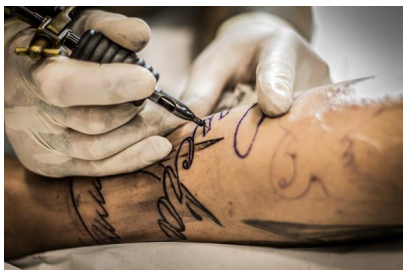
Tattooing (including cosmetic tattooing)

Client information

Key advice

- Choose an experienced tattooist whose premises (shop) is registered with their local council.
- Only sterilised needles, instruments and equipment should be used.
- Care for your tattoo while the site heals. Keep the site clean. Only touch the tattoo when necessary and always wash your hands before doing so.
- If you experience pain, swelling, inflammation or discharge seek medical advice immediately.

Tattooing is a very popular form of body art. It involves injecting ink into the dermal layer of the skin to permanently or semi-permanently colour the skin. Tattooing can be for body art or cosmetic purposes.



Cosmetic tattooing, also called micropigmentation, semi-permanent or permanent make-up, may be a service offered by some beauty therapy clinics. Cosmetic tattoos are used to define lips, eyebrows, and eyes.

Microblading or feathering of eyebrows is another form of cosmetic tattoo, although these usually fade much more quickly than other cosmetic tattoos.

If you are thinking about having a tattoo done you should read this fact sheet to find out about the law, the risks, and aftercare for your tattoo.

The law in Victoria

In Victoria it is against the law to tattoo any person under the age of 18 years.

Go to a registered premises

Tattoo businesses, including those who offer cosmetic tattooing services, must be registered with their local council. A certificate of registration should be available for you to see.

To comply with health legislation:

- the premises must be kept clean and hygienic
- tattoo needles must be sterile at the time of use; the operator should be able to explain how they have been sterilised
- the tattooist should not have exposed cuts or wounds and their clothes must be clean
- the premises must have accessible handwashing facilities
- the tattooist must provide you with health information before any procedure is done.

Risks

The most common complications from tattooing are skin infections and allergic reactions to the ink.

All tattooing procedures, including cosmetic tattoos, if not performed under hygienic conditions can lead to infection or blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV.

In recent years, some inks have been recalled due to the presence of dangerous chemicals or contamination with microorganisms (germs). Ask your tattooist for details about the inks they use. They should be able to provide you with a safety data sheet.

Avoid getting tattoos in other countries, particularly in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America. The risk for complications and infections, including hepatitis B and C and HIV, is much greater.

People who have tattoos, including cosmetic tattoos, cannot donate blood for four months after getting a tattoo.

What to look for

The following are best practice recommendations for tattooists.

The tattooist should wash their hands at the beginning and end of the procedure and whenever they take a break during the procedure such as when answering the phone. They should also wear single-use disposable gloves during the procedure.

The tattooist should clean and disinfect your skin thoroughly before and after the procedure.

Needles or instruments used to pierce the skin must be sterile at the time of use. Tattoo needles should be single-use only and disposed of after each client. Other associated equipment such as the tattoo gun must be cleaned and sterilised or disinfected between each client. The tattooist should be able to explain how their equipment is cleaned and sterilised.

Ink containers should be single-use only or cleaned and sterilised between uses due to the risk of contamination with blood. Only sterile water, not tap water, should be used to dilute inks or to rinse needles while tattooing.



Caring for your tattoo

Your tattooist should provide you with detailed aftercare advice.

Some suggestions for looking after your tattoo include the following:

- Always wash your hands before touching the tattoo while it is healing.
- Do not rub, pick or scratch at the new tattoo.
- Cover the tattoo in the first instance with a non-stick dressing such as gauze. If cling film is used, make sure it is taken straight from the pack.

- Only use creams as advised by your tattooist or a pharmacist. Antibiotic creams should only be used for infections and under the supervision of a doctor.
- Do not wear tight or dirty clothing over the tattoo.
- Avoid sunbathing, but if you do, apply sunscreen.
- Avoid swimming until the tattoo has healed. Use a barrier cream if you have frequent contact with water.



Tattoo removal

Unwanted tattoos can cause distress, especially if they are easily visible. In the past tattoo removal almost always led to extensive scarring. The development of newer treatments, such as laser therapy, means that most tattoos can be safely and effectively removed.

If you are considering removing a tattoo, consult your doctor for advice.

Further information

Councils register premises under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 for the purpose of overseeing infection control standards. Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

If you have concerns about the premises, the services you have received or need information on your rights please contact:

- the council in which the premises is located
- Consumer Affairs Victoria

<<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/>>.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone Communicable Disease Prevention and Control on 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email

infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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Available at www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/personal-care-body-art-industries

5 The approved form of information for a business involving skin penetration is:

Skin penetration procedures

Client information for ear piercing, body piercing and other skin penetration processes

Key advice

- Choose an experienced practitioner whose premises (shop) is registered with their local council.
- Only sterilised needles, instruments and equipment should be used.
- Care for your piercing or wound while the area heals. Only handle the area when necessary and always wash your hands before doing so. Keep the area clean, dry and protected.
- If you experience pain, swelling, redness or discharge seek medical advice immediately.

Any activity where the skin is pierced or penetrated is classified as skin penetration. In the past these procedures were mostly limited to ear, body or oral piercings, but more recent practices include activities such as beading, branding and scarification. It also includes, but is not limited to, practices such as dry needling, wet cupping, feathering and micro-needling.

If you are thinking about having a skin penetration procedure you should read this fact sheet to find out about the law, the risks, and aftercare.

The law in Victoria

Laws relating to skin penetration and body piercing are different in each state or territory. In Victoria it is illegal for any person to perform scarification, tongue splitting, branding or beading on any person under the age of 18 years.

It is also illegal for a body piercer to perform an intimate body piercing on a person under the age of 18 years, whether or not consent has been given. Intimate body piercing includes piercing of your genitals, anal region, perineum (between anus and genitals) or nipples.

In Victoria, it is also illegal for a body piercer to perform any body piercing on you if you are under 16 years of age, without obtaining written consent from:

- your parent or guardian, **and**
- yourself, if you are over 10 years of age and have the capacity to consent.

Go to a registered premises

Skin penetration businesses must be registered with their local council¹. A certificate of registration should be available for you to see. To comply with health legislation:

- the premises must be kept clean and hygienic
- instruments, needles and jewellery must be sterile at the time of use; the piercer should be able to explain how they have been sterilised
- the practitioner should not have exposed cuts or wounds and their clothes must be clean
- the premises must have accessible handwashing facilities
- the proprietor of the premises must provide you with health information before any procedure is done
- the proprietor of the premises must keep a record of your name, address and telephone number for a period of 12 months after the skin penetration procedure.

Risks

Poor hygiene and lack of care during or after the skin penetration procedure can lead to infection, allergic reactions, nerve damage or transmission of serious infectious diseases.

Complications from any procedure may include:

- infection or an abscess at the site of the piercing
- bloodstream infection, if an infection of a wound/piercing isn't treated early

¹ There are some limited exemptions such as the practice of a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in the pharmacy profession (other than as a student).

- problems with healing or scarring (for example, keloid scarring)
- excessive bleeding – this requires prompt medical attention
- rejection and migration – this is more likely if a piercing is not in the right place or the jewellery is made from the wrong metal or is the wrong size
- blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV from non-sterilised equipment.

Signs of infection include pain, redness, swelling and thick discharge (yellow or green) from the piercing site.

See your doctor immediately if you have any of these signs. Do not remove the jewellery until you seek further advice.

Some complications can happen with particular piercing sites or procedures. These can include:

- **Oral/facial piercing**
 - Aspiration (choking) is a risk if the ball unscrews from the bar bell and rolls down your throat into your windpipe. The ball can lodge in your lungs. **This is a medical emergency: Call an ambulance on 000.**
 - Difficulty speaking or chewing, mouth irritation or damage to teeth and gums, nerve damage, difficulty breathing due to swelling caused by an infection.
- **Navel piercing** – severe infection if the umbilicus (belly button) is pierced.
- **Nipple piercing** – difficulty breastfeeding, an infected nipple (in women the infection can travel through the milk ducts and into the lymph nodes under the arm) or the growth of a cyst inside the nipple.
- **Genital piercing** – increased risk of sexually transmissible infections due to condom damage and because infection can enter the body at the piercing.
- **Lost stud/retainer** – a stud or retainer can travel under the skin or the gum. If you lose a stud or retainer, seek urgent medical attention.
- **Migration of micro-dermal implant**

Some people are at a higher risk of infection or complications due to medications, chemotherapy, weakened immune system, breast implants, heart valve diseases, rheumatic fever, and skin infections. For further advice about these risks consult your doctor before having a piercing or other skin penetration procedure.

What to look for

When performing a skin penetration procedure, the practitioner should:

- perform hand hygiene at the beginning and end of the procedure and whenever they take a break during the procedure such as when answering the phone

- clean and disinfect your skin thoroughly before and after the procedure
- use single-use disposable needles for each procedure
- use sterile equipment – the piercer should be able to explain how equipment is sterilised
- use only new sterilised jewellery for piercings.

Aftercare

The practitioner should provide you with information about how to care for your wound/piercing after a skin penetration procedure. Some procedures, such as dry needling need little or no aftercare due to the very small risk of infection they pose.

How long your piercing or wound takes to heal depends on where it is, the technique used, the size of the wound, the quality of the jewellery, how you look after it and your body's own ability to heal. Healing time can vary from around two weeks to six or nine months.

Only handle the wound/piercing when necessary and always wash your hands before touching it. Use only fresh disposable paper towel to dry the wound/piercing after a shower or bath. Never use a communal hand/bath towel.

Remember to see your doctor if there are any problems with an area that is pierced that might indicate infection or complications or something is wrong.

Further information

Councils register premises under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* for the purpose of overseeing infection control standards. Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the ability or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

If you have concerns about the premises, the services you have received or need information on your rights please contact:

- the council in which the premises is located
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
<<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/>>.

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Available at www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/personal-care-body-art-industries

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**APPROVED FORM OF NOTICES TO BE DISPLAYED AT REGISTERED PREMISES**

- 1 Regulation 38(1) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 requires a proprietor or occupier of premises where a registered premises is located to ensure that a notice in a form approved by the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services about the scope of registration for the class of business registered for the premises is displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business conducted on those premises. Failure to comply with regulation 38(1) is an offence punishable by up to 10 penalty units.
- 2 Regulation 38(2) and (3) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 provide that the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services may approve forms for the purposes of regulation 38(1) and that the approved forms must be published in the Government Gazette.
- 3 I, Dr Brett Sutton, Chief Health Officer and delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, give notice that I have approved the form of notices required to be displayed at registered premises for each class of business detailed below.

- 4 The approved notice for the business of beauty therapy is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business of beauty therapy.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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- 5 The approved notice for the business of applying cosmetics that does not involve skin penetration or tattooing is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business of applying cosmetics that does not involve skin penetration or tattooing.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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- 6 The approved notice for a business involving colonic irrigation is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business involving colonic irrigation.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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7 The approved notice for the business of hairdressing is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business of hairdressing.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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- 8 The approved notice for a business involving skin penetration is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business involving skin penetration.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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9 The approved notice for a business involving tattooing is:

Notice about registration under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

The registration of this premises is as a business involving tattooing.

Registration is administered by the council in which this premises is located.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 set out infection control standards that apply to registered premises.

Registration does not apply to the quality of procedures undertaken or the abilities or qualifications of individuals undertaking the business.

This notice must be displayed in a prominent position in the entry to the business.

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Level 2, 1 Macarthur Street

Melbourne 3002

Victoria Australia

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Ground Floor, Building 8,
658 Church Street,
Richmond 3121

DX 106 Melbourne

**Telephone**

(03) 8523 4601

**Fax**

(03) 9600 0478

email

gazette@bluestargroup.com.au

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