

Dry Place Declarations Factsheet

What is a dry place declaration?

A dry place is a house where no alcohol is allowed. It is a strategy within the Alcohol Management Plans. A tenant, owner-occupier or lessee-occupier can make a dry place application to stop people possessing and/or consuming alcohol at their house.

They are available in all the discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as Mossman Gorge and Coen. This includes communities with a zero alcohol carriage limit.

Any person who drinks or has any type of alcohol in a dry place is breaking the law. They could be fined a maximum of 19 penalty units (\$2,535).

A person who has made a dry place declaration can apply to have it suspended for up to seven days (e.g. for a wedding) or cancelled.

What are some of the benefits of a dry place declaration?

- * Take control of alcohol in your own home
- * Children can get a better night's sleep
- * Less party houses in the community
- * A safer home environment

How does a community member apply for a dry place declaration?

The community member must complete a dry place declaration form and submit it to the Magistrates Court. There is no application fee when applying for a dry place declaration.

Applicant(s) must prove they are tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers of the residence.

Where to get an application form?

Application forms are available from the Magistrates Court, the local community justice group and local police.

Community justice groups (CJG)

The CJG can provide tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers with the application form and help them complete the form. CJGs can also submit the form to the Magistrates Court on behalf of the applicant/s.

Local police

Local police can also provide tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers with the application form and submit the form to the Magistrates Court on behalf of the applicant/s.

Local police store dry place signs at the police station and will provide two signs for each dry place. Police must also display a notice of the declaration at the local police station, or if there isn't a local police station, on a community notice board.

The police will also enforce the dry place declaration in their local community.

More information

More information regarding dry place declarations including the application form is available at www.qld.gov.au/atsi/health-staying-active/dry-places/

Dry place declaration application process

There are six steps in dry place declaration application process.

Step 1

A tenant, owner-occupier or lessee-occupier makes the decision to make their home a dry place.

All tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers of the residence must agree to become a dry place.

Step 2

Obtain the dry place declaration application form from the Magistrates Court, local CJG, local police, or internet.

Step 3

Include documented evidence that all applicants are tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers of the residence.

Ensure everyone who is a tenant, owner-occupier or lessee-occupier of the home has signed the form.

Step 4

The application for a dry place declaration must be submitted to the Magistrates Court. If applicants cannot submit their form to the Magistrates Court, local CJG or local police may be able to help.

Step 5

If the application is approved, the Magistrates Court must give written notification to the applicants and the local police.

Step 6

Once an application is approved and the residence is a dry place, residents must display a notice of the declaration at each entrance to the home.

Signs are available from the local police station.