



Tattoo industry and impacts of COVID-19

This document provides an update to frequently asked questions for the tattoo industry regarding impacts on licences because of the government restrictions during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

It was updated as at 3 July 2020 to take into account changes made to the Chief Health Officer (CHO) directions in the [Restrictions on Business, Activities and Undertaking Direction \(No.3\)](#).

What is the situation for tattooists?

From 12 noon 3 July 2020 (under Stage 3 of [Queensland's Roadmap to easing restrictions](#), tattooists can operate in line with the rules set for general businesses with the maximum number of customers determined by the square metre rules. One customer per 4 square metres are allowed inside a large business premises, while smaller premises that are less than 200 square metres in size are allowed one customer per 2 square metres.

In addition, tattoo operators must also comply with the general requirements placed on all industries by the CHO under the [Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction \(No.3\)](#), including that:

- a [COVID Safe Checklist](#) is in place
- the 1.5 metre social distancing rules are observed
- you [keep contact information](#) for all guests and staff for 56 days for contact tracing purposes.

The changes imposed in the [CHO Direction](#) and outlined in the [Roadmap](#) are designed to enable businesses to reopen in a way that does not compromise the health of the community.

Refer to [Queensland Health website](#) for details on changes to non-essential business. More information for [COVID Safe Businesses](#) can be found online.

Background

On 24 March 2020 the Prime Minister announced that as a result of COVID-19 the National Cabinet had extended the ban on non-essential business to include the tattoo industry in Australia until further notice. In Queensland this decision for the ban was given effect by the CHO [Non-essential business, activity and undertaking, Closure Direction \(No.2\)](#).

This ban meant tattooists and operators could not perform any tattooing anywhere in Australia including their own home, until the government relaxed the restrictions.

STAGE 3: JULY 3

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On 8 May 2020 the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk released [Queensland's Roadmap to Easing COVID-19 Restrictions](#). The roadmap outlined a staged approach to giving Queenslanders and businesses more freedom to participate in more activities with a gradual increase in gatherings. Under the Roadmap, tattoo operators were listed for likely easing of restrictions as part of stage 2.

On 31 May the Queensland Government announced stage 2 would commence at midday 1 June 2020, releasing an updated [Roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions](#), and the CHO released new [Directions](#) outlining the requirements placed on each impacted industry. Tattoo operators were able to reopen and have up to 20 customers at any one time in their business premises providing there was a COVID Safe checklist in place.

I have a Queensland licence. What is the status of my licence?

These changes do not affect the validity of your Queensland licence under the legislation. Your licence is still valid until its expiry date during these restrictions. Your licence will remain current until the current licence period expires, i.e. one or three years after the initial grant or last renewal.

I am thinking about starting a tattoo business in Queensland and getting a licence.

From 25 March 2020, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has not been able to issue new licences under the [Tattoo Industry Act 2013](#), for tattoo operators or tattooists.

It would have been improper for the OFT to grant an application and accept a fee for an activity that could not be conducted.

However, on 1 June 2020, under stage 2 of [Queensland's Roadmap To Easing Restrictions](#), we began to issue new licences again.

I recently lodged a licence application and paid my fees but my licence has not been issued yet.

During the period tattooists could not operate the OFT provided you the opportunity to either:

1. withdraw your application and seek a refund or
2. allow OFT to hold your application, pending the lifting of the ban.

Since restrictions were eased, we have recommenced processing the applications which were placed on hold. Please email us if you would like any further information about this at ilu@justice.qld.gov.au.

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Where can I get more information?

- Email us at ilu@justice.qld.gov.au
- Refer to OFT [website](#)
- Information on COVID-19 including COVID Safe Checklists, COVID Safe Businesses, Collecting and storing customer information during COVID19, can be found on the Queensland Governments [COVID-19](#) website.
- Information on [CHO Directions](#) at Queensland Health website