

# HIGHLY PERFUMED PRODUCTS - EXPOSURE TO PROCEDURE®

## DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Details the management of highly perfumed products in the workplace.
- Under the Work Health and Safety Act, a worker while at work has an obligation to take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons.

### Related Information

- [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)
- [Work Health Safety Risk Management Procedure](#)
- [Resolution of Work Health Safety \(WHS\) Issues](#)

## CHANGE SUMMARY

- This document has been updated in relation to current WHS Legislation and Network procedures.
- Updated the procedure title.

## READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All managers should be aware of this document.
- SCHN staff should read and acknowledge this document.

<b>Approved by:</b>	SCHN Policy, Procedure & Guideline Committee	
<b>Date Effective:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	<b>Review Period:</b> 3 years
<b>Team Leader:</b>	Manager	<b>Area/Dept:</b> Work Health & Safety

## 1 Introduction

The presence of scents from highly perfumed products in the workplace can either be as a result of personal use or by application to the environment. Some people may be more sensitive than others to low level perfumed products. Both natural and synthetic substances may cause adverse reactions to sensitive individuals. This is particularly important in small, poorly ventilated work areas where even personal deodorants, perfumes, hair sprays, lotions, body and after-shaves may cause irritation to others.

## 2 Procedure for Reducing Exposure

- Workers are encouraged to be very mindful of the effects of highly perfumed products to colleagues, patients, volunteers, visitors and others.
- Workers who have a known sensitivity to a particular highly perfumed product should discuss the issue with their managers or supervisor to minimise the risk of exposure.
- Liquid and solid room deodorisers are not to be used in the hospital and aerosol products should be eliminated where possible.
- If staff are concerned about the chemical exposure impacting on their health and of others, they should inform their manager or supervisor.
- In most instances the manager or supervisor will be in a position to discuss the matter with the other party.
- If the manager or supervisor is unable to resolve the issue the worker may escalate the issue with the WHS team who will be able to assist to resolve the matter.

## 3 References

- i) [Work Health Safety Act \(2011\)](#)
- ii) [Work Health Safety Regulation \(2011\)](#)
- iii) [SafeWork NSW - Code of Practice: Managing the work environment and facilities](#)
- iv) [Resolution of Work Health Safety \(WHS\) Issues](#)

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