

Personal Appearance Services

Personal appearance services include non-higher risk services such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, and higher risk services such as skin penetration (tattooing, body piercing). Personal appearance services can be operated from commercial premises, mobile premises (e.g. a caravan) or home based business.

Before you start

If you are starting a new business or making changes to an existing premises you will need to consider council's planning requirements, and obtain relevant building and plumbing approvals. Some businesses also require a Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services Licence to operate.

Who doesn't need a licence (non-higher risk)

You do not need a licence if you perform the following activities:

- hairdressing
- beauty therapy (including facial or body treatments, application of cosmetics, manicures or pedicures, application of, or mending artificial nails, hair removal by electrolysis or wax)
- closed ear or nose piercing
- acupuncture
- massage therapy
- tattoo removal using a laser - you don't need a licence from council but you do need a laser licence issued by Queensland Health
- personal appearance services provided within a health-care facility – you don't need a licence from council but need to comply with relevant medical legislation.



Who needs a licence (higher risk)

You need a licence to perform the following higher-risk personal appearance services:

- tattooing (including cosmetic tattooing and semi-permanent make-up)
- tattoo removal using micro needles
- body piercing
- implanting a natural or synthetic substance into a person's skin, for example hair or beads
- scarring or cutting a person's skin using a sharp instrument to make a permanent mark, pattern or design.

Your premises design and fit out needs to comply with the Queensland Development Code, Part MP 5.2 and the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*.

Supporting information to be provided with the licence application includes:

- design plans,
- relevant planning, building and plumbing approvals,
- a copy of Tattoo Operator licence issued by Industry Licensing Unit (Office of Fair Trading)
- Certificate of Attainment for the competency standard which is currently HLTINF005 - Maintain Infection Prevention for Skin Penetration Treatments. Other former competencies are recognised. Please contact an Environmental Health Officer for further information.



Higher risk personal appearance licence application

Council will process your application within 40 days after its receipt (legislative timeframe) and advise you if additional information is required.

When council issues your licence, you can start operating in accordance with the approved conditions.

You will need to apply for a [Personal Appearance Services Licence](#).

Additional information

- Queensland Health – [What business needs to know about personal appearance services](#)
- Personal Appearance Services Fit-out Guide – [Guide for Operators](#)
- Queensland Health - Licensed mobile premises providing higher risk personal appearance services – [what the proprietor needs to know](#)
- Queensland Health - [How to sterilise instruments and jewelry](#)
- [Public Health \(Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services\) Act 2003](#)
- [Public Health \(Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services\) Regulation 2016](#)

Contact us

In person (by appointment only):
Environmental Health Services
29 Channon Street, Gympie QLD 4570

By mail:
PO Box 155, Gympie QLD 4570

By email:
health@gympie.qld.gov.au

By phone:
1300 307 800

