

First ban imposed on club smoking

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1 A BOWLING club where
a staff member was
sacked for wearing a gas
mask to protect himself
5 from second-hand
smoke has become the
first club ordered to go
smoke-free by the NSW
Government.

6 The Moama Bowling
Club, near Echuca on the
NSW-Victorian border,
has been issued with a
15 notice by WorkCover to
ban patrons from smok-
ing by January to protect
employees.

20 WorkCover said when
making the order it also
took into account the
case of bar worker Mar-
lene Sharp, who was
awarded \$450,000 by the
25 NSW Supreme Court
after proving her throat
cancer was caused by
working in a smoke-
filled bar at Port Kembla
RSL Club for 11 years.

30 In April, Steven Kane
was sacked from the
Moama club for wearing
a respirator face mask to
work behind the bar.

35 The 42-year-old father
of three was dismissed,
management said, for
not following a lawful
directive to wear the
40 correct staff uniform.

The club had just
ended an 18-month
smoke-free trial, but rein-
troduced smoking for
patrons on March 24.

At the time, the then
chief executive, Phillip
Johnson, said club profits
dropped significantly
during the smoking ban.

After his sacking, Mr
Kane lodged an unfair
dismissal action in the
NSW Industrial Relations
Commission, arguing the
club had allegedly brea-
ched the Occupational
Health and Safety Act by
not providing a safe
workplace.

"My ultimate goal is to
get my job back," he said.
"It would be great if this
sort of ban was spread
across the state."

Senior WorkCover
official Peter Harley said
it issued an improvement
notice to the bowling club
after investigating a com-
plaint by a former
employee about being
exposed to environ-
mental tobacco smoke.

"Moama is the first
club to get an improve-
ment notice of this type,"
Mr Harley said.

Current club chief
executive Boots Plow-
man declined to com-
ment because the matter
was yet to be decided.

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