

Fast Forward

Unit 4

Story B

- 1988:** Domestic airlines – smokefree
- 1990:** All public transport – smokefree
- 2004:** All buildings and grounds of schools and early childhood centres – smokefree
- 2004:** All indoor areas of licensed premises (bars, restaurants, cafes, sports clubs, casinos) – smokefree
- 2004:** All indoor areas of workplaces (including offices, factories, warehouses, work canteens, and “smoko” rooms) – smokefree
- 2005:** Outdoor seating areas in sports stadiums – smokefree
- 2010:** Most outdoor public recreational areas – smokefree
- 2015:** Outdoor areas in central business districts and areas defined as residential – smokefree
- 2020:** Outdoor spaces in all residential and rural areas – smokefree
- 2025: New Zealand – smokefree**



I'm not old enough to remember when people could legally buy cigarettes in shops and supermarkets. I don't know anyone who smokes, but I've heard plenty about smoking and why it's not such a good thing. I can see that. I mean the idea of getting some dry leaves, rolling them in a piece of paper, sticking them in your mouth, and setting fire to them – well, that just seems crazy! My friend Miki and I have seen people puffing on cigarettes in old movies and TV programmes. It looks weird.

Now we've become the first country in the whole world to go smokefree. I've listened to the politicians saying how they are so proud of this achievement – New Zealand being the first smokefree country in the world! It's like they were talking about winning a World Cup or something. And I guess it is in a way. Clean, green New Zealand!

It's funny – there was quite a bit of opposition to becoming a smokefree country at first, but as the date got closer and people could see the benefits more clearly, the opposition sort of melted away. And now it just seems strange to think that we didn't do it earlier.



There are still a few people in the country who are addicted to smoking, but the number is getting smaller and smaller. Most of them want to quit, but it's still really hard.

If you are addicted, you can get a prescription to buy cigarettes from a SmokefreeNZ help centre.

Anyway, although Miki and I think that New Zealand being smokefree is great, Miki says it's created a problem for his family.

Miki's father works for a big company that designs really cool gadgets, so Miki gets to test everything out, and I really like helping him with that! When he comes to my place, we play a lot of sport. Because we haven't got any grounds around our apartment, we use the simulator. We can play rugby, football, tennis, softball – anything really.

Miki has lived in New Zealand all his life, but his parents haven't. They came over from Japan about fifteen years ago. They like it here and want to stay. Miki's grandfather is still in Japan, but now that he's getting older, they want him close so they can take care of him. He wants to move to New Zealand too, and last week, they heard that he has been granted residency. Miki and his mum and dad are really happy!

But Miki's grandfather is a smoker. He's worried about moving here because he's been a smoker all his life. Still, he will get lots of support to give up from those SmokefreeNZ help centres I was talking about. He'll be given free nicotine patches and a personal counsellor to help him quit. It's a bit like having a personal trainer at the gym, but one who supports you to quit smoking. It may sound as though that would cost a lot of money, but the government has worked out that it's much cheaper to help people quit than to pay their hospital bills when they get sick from smoking.

I reckon Miki's grandfather will love it here. Being completely smokefree has made us a bit different from the rest of the world. Different in a good way. Like I said before, it's great to have clean, fresh air everywhere and not so much sickness. And now that the rest of the world has seen what it's like, I think they'll be in a hurry to catch up.



Critical thinking – think, pair, share

Read excerpt from the story (i) ►

Consider these questions and then discuss them with a partner.

- What would be the benefits of a smokefree New Zealand?
- If New Zealand were completely smokefree, do you think the law should make a special allowance for short-term visitors, such as tourists and people here on business? Why/why not?

Excerpt from the story (i)

It's funny – there was quite a bit of opposition to becoming a smokefree country at first, but as the date got closer and people could see the benefits more clearly, the opposition sort of melted away. And now it just seems strange to think that we didn't do it earlier.

There are still a few people in the country who are addicted to smoking, but the number is getting smaller and smaller. Most of them want to quit, but it's still really hard.

Critical thinking – think, pair, share

Read excerpt from the story (ii) ►

Consider these questions and then discuss them with a partner.

- What other ways could Miki's grandfather be supported to quit smoking?
- What would change in your neighbourhood and community if New Zealand were completely smokefree?

Excerpt from the story (ii)

But Miki's grandfather is a smoker. He's worried about moving here because he's been a smoker all his life. Still, he will get lots of support to give up. He'll be given free nicotine patches and a personal counsellor to help him quit. It's a bit like having a personal trainer, but one who supports you to quit smoking. And he'll be able to do free courses if he wants to take up a hobby. It may sound as though that would cost a lot of money, but the government has worked out that it's much cheaper to help people quit than to pay their hospital bills when they get sick from smoking.

2050 Smokefree Aotearoa New Zealand



Imagine you are a journalist who has been transported by time machine to the year 2050. Use page 23 of your student journal to write a report on what a smokefree New Zealand is like.