



Tattooists in New South Wales must be registered with their local council and comply with current legislation.

Unregistered tattooists may charge less than other tattooists but they may not take such a professional approach, and the risk of infection may be greater.

Tattooists must have the consent of a parent, either in person or in writing, before they are allowed to perform tattooing on any part of a young person under the age of 18 years.

You may have to visit a few tattoo parlours and meet various tattoo artists before you meet one who you feel confident with. Once you get your new tattoo and it is executed to perfection, you will thank yourself for taking the time to choose a tattoo artist who you were happy with.

For more information on choosing a tattooist, current legislation or to check if they are registered, please contact your local council.

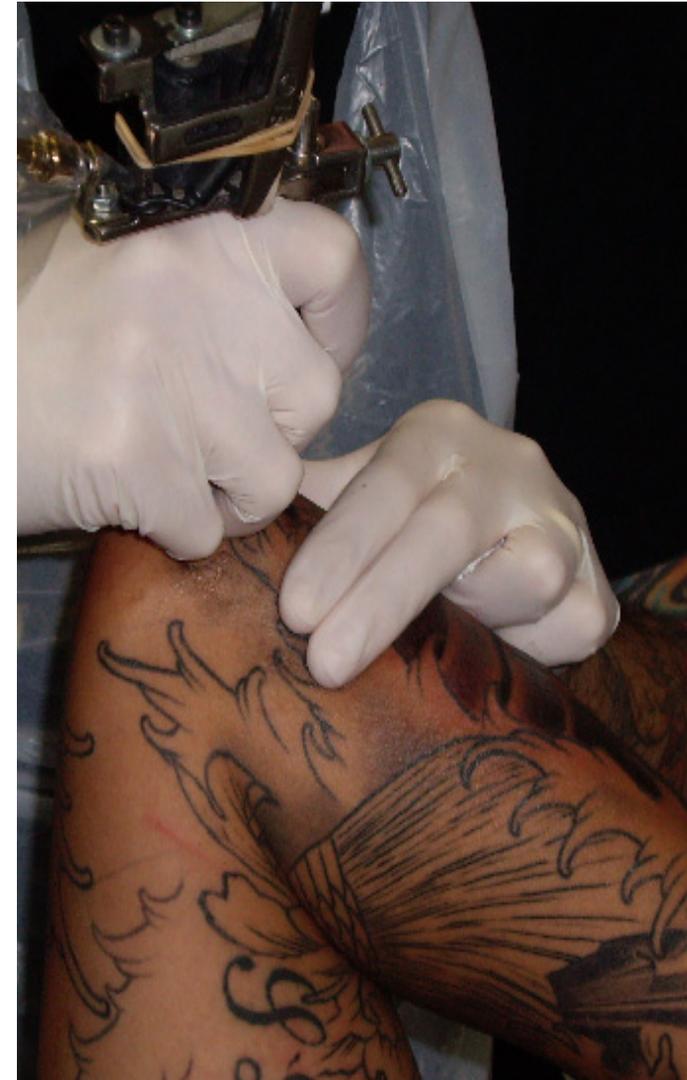


The Hunter Regional Health Education Committee consists of representatives from all Hunter and Central Coast councils and the Central Coast Area Health Service, which combine to produce public and environmental health educational materials for the benefit of their communities.

Further information and fact sheets on body decoration and grooming including tattooing can be found at:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/general/body_grooming.asp

Choosing a Tattooist



This information is provided by the Hunter Region Health Education Committee in the interests of community health and safety



Looking to pick a tattoo artist is a big decision to make. You're looking for someone who understands the look you're after and someone you can trust.

Taking a minute or two to look around you and asking a few questions can make the experience of getting a tattoo a safe and rewarding one.

So what are the risks?

Not just a bad design, there is also the risk of contracting disease or infection.

The process of tattooing penetrates the skin and draws blood which means that when it's not done safely you can risk skin infections like:

- Dermatitis, flare up of existing eczema,
- Keloids (thick scars on dark skin), or
- Nerve damage,
- More serious blood borne diseases like Hepatitis B, C, Tetanus or HIV.



What should you look out for?

The shop and especially the work area should be clean and tidy; this is a good indication of the general work practices of an operator.

The equipment used should be clean and stored in clean containers.

The floors, walls and benches of the work area should be made of material that's easy to wipe down and keep clean, like stainless steel.

The staff must wash their hands with warm water and soap, and dry them with disposable towel before and after every client.

Tattooists should wear new disposable gloves and a splatter proof apron, to protect them and you.

Inks should be measured out into small separate containers for you; there shouldn't be any dipping into one big container that would be used on more than one customer.

Tattooing equipment used should come from sterile containers or bags and be opened in front of you.



Questions to ask yourself... or the operator

Does the operator wash his or her hands with running warm water and soap, and dry them with disposable paper towel before starting?

Is the equipment which pierces the skin single use (disposable) or reused? — in which case it must have been sterilised before being used on you.

How is the equipment sterilised?

Autoclaves and Dry Heat are the only acceptable methods of sterilising — the following do not sterilise: boiling, pasteurisation, disinfectants, pressure cookers, microwave ovens, ultraviolet cabinets and ultrasonic cleaners.

If the equipment is sterilised, was the sterilised bag opened in front of you?

Is there a yellow sharps container for disposal of sharps in order to avoid cross contamination or needle stick injuries?

What experience does the operator have?

Does the operator provide you with after care information?