

New Zealand airport bans three-minute hugs

24th October 2024



A long goodbye hug at an airport in New Zealand could land you in trouble. The international airport in Dunedin has set a three-minute limit on the time people can spend hugging each other at the drop-off zone. An airport official said the

limit is so traffic can keep flowing. He said there has recently been a problem of traffic jams near the departures building. The official said too many people were taking too long in the drop-off zone in front of the building. The airport now has warning signs that say: "Max hug time 3 minutes. For fonder farewells, please use the car park." People who spend longer than three minutes saying their goodbyes could get a penalty. They could get a fine or get their wheels clamped.

The airport's new hugging policy is not popular with everybody. CEO Daniel De Bono told local reporters that he has received many complaints. He said: "We were accused of breaching basic human rights." He added that another person said: "How dare we limit how long someone can have a hug." Someone on the airport's Facebook page called the policy "inhumane". Mr De Bono defended the hug posters. He said: "Three minutes is plenty of time to pull up, say farewell to your loved ones and move on. The time limit is really a nicer way of saying get on with it." He added that airports were "hotbeds of emotion" and that anything longer than a 20-second hug was "really awkward".

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) / [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk)

Writing

Everybody should hug more often and for longer. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

goodbyes / hugs / goodbye hugs / being in trouble / traffic / car park / penalty / fine / popular / reporters / complaints / human rights / inhumane / posters / emotions

True / False

- 1) People can get in trouble for hugging at one airport in New Zealand. T / F
- 2) The airport says all hugs must be at least three minutes long. T / F
- 3) Overly-long goodbyes have caused traffic jams at the airport. T / F
- 4) The airport recommends the car park for longer goodbyes. T / F
- 5) The airport's CEO said many people complained about the hugging limit. T / F
- 6) Someone said the hugging ban was a breach of human rights. T / F
- 7) The airport says the three-minute time limit was not nice. T / F
- 8) The airport CEO said emotional people need a hot bed. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. goodbye | a. objections |
| 2. limit | b. area |
| 3. zone | c. immobilized |
| 4. fine | d. guidelines |
| 5. clamped | e. farewell |
| 6. policy | f. cruel |
| 7. complaints | g. blamed |
| 8. accused | h. cap |
| 9. inhumane | i. tricky |
| 10. awkward | j. financial penalty |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of airports?
- b) What do you think of hugging?
- c) Should there be a time limit for hugging at airports?
- d) Should there be a hugging zone at airports and train stations?
- e) What problems does hugging at airports cause?
- f) What do you think of the hugging sign?
- g) How do you say farewell to loved ones?
- h) How much should people be fined for a 4-minute hug?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. A long goodbye hug | a. the departures building |
| 2. An airport official said the limit is | b. get their wheels clamped |
| 3. a problem of traffic jams near | c. loved ones and move on |
| 4. too many people | d. is not popular with everybody |
| 5. They could get a fine or | e. called the policy "inhumane" |
| 6. The airport's new hugging policy | f. at an airport in New Zealand |
| 7. We were accused of breaching | g. so traffic can keep flowing |
| 8. Someone on the airport's Facebook page | h. of emotion |
| 9. say farewell to your | i. were taking too long |
| 10. He added that airports were hotbeds | j. basic human rights |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you complain about the hugging sign?
- Have you ever complained online about something?
- Is hugging a basic human right?
- What feelings do you have when you hug someone?
- Are there different rules for hugging different people?
- Why are airports 'hotbeds of emotion'?
- What questions would you like to ask the airport?

Spelling

- land you in bolutre
- An airport oifcifla
- the limit is so ctfifar can keep flowing
- jams near the ptarseuedr building
- get a tanyepI
- get their wheels lecapdm
- The airport's new hugging oclypi
- he has received many coltaipsmn
- eccdaus of breaching basic human rights
- Mr De Bono eddndfee the hug posters
- airports were hotbeds of ionetmo
- a 20-second hug was really akdawrw

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. d	7. a	8. g	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Airport Drop-off Zones

You think airport drop-off zones are the worst places to hug people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places are OK. Also, tell the others which of these places are OK to hug in (and why): art galleries, swimming pools or supermarket checkouts.

Role B – Art Galleries

You think art galleries are the worst places to hug people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places are OK. Also, tell the others which of these places are OK to hug in (and why): airport drop-off zones, swimming pools or supermarket checkouts.

Role C – Swimming Pools

You think swimming pools are the worst places to hug people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places are OK. Also, tell the others which of these places are OK to hug in (and why): art galleries, airport drop-off zones or supermarket checkouts.

Role D – Supermarket Checkouts

You think supermarket checkouts are the worst places to hug people. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places are OK. Also, tell the others which of these places are OK to hug in (and why): art galleries, swimming pools or airport drop-off zones.

Speaking – No Hugging

Rank these with your partner. Put the places at the top where we shouldn't hug. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Airport drop-off zones | • Buses |
| • Supermarket checkouts | • Swimming pools |
| • School classrooms | • Soccer pitches |
| • An expensive restaurant | • An art gallery |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.