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BY:
Cancer Council
Western Australia

MAKE SMOKING
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28 September 2017

The Honourable Michael Mischin MLC
Member for North Metropolitan Region
Chair, Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review
PO Box 3044
JOONDALUP WA 6027
Email: michael.mischin@mp.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Mischin,

RE: Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017

Cancer Council WA, Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) and the Heart Foundation (WA) write to express our full support for the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017 as referred to the Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review by the Legislative Council on 6 September 2017.

The prevalence of smoking for adults who smoke daily in WA is now at an all-time low of 9.1 per cent⁽¹⁾. However, this figure is still too high, given it equates to around 187,100 West Australians who are at serious risk of premature death and preventable diseases caused by tobacco. Every year, 1700 people in WA die because they smoked, and each day 52 people are admitted to West Australian hospitals because of their smoking^(2,3).

Unfortunately, those already experiencing poor health and social disadvantage carry most of the burden of death and disease associated with tobacco use. Compared to the general population, the prevalence of smoking is significantly higher amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those experiencing lower socio-economic status (SES) and people living with mental ill health⁽⁴⁾.

Despite significant achievements in tobacco control and health promotion in WA there is no room for complacency. Our state was once hailed as a national leader in tobacco control because of its progressive and effective legislation. Western Australia has now fallen behind other jurisdictions, with little action on tobacco law reform by the WA state government since 2009.

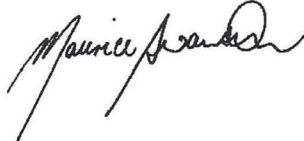
The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017 tabled in August by the current Government will strengthen legislation to restrict the sale and promotion of tobacco products, particularly to protect young people in WA. Collectively we fully support and welcome these amendments. You'll be aware that we also supported the amendments proposed by the previous Liberal/National coalition through their Tobacco Products Control Amendment Memorandum 2016, which are closely aligned to this current Bill.

We urge your support of the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017 and welcome the opportunity to discuss further the provisions of the Bill if required.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Reid
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Council WA



Maurice Swanson
Chief Executive
Heart Foundation (WA)



Professor Kingsley
Faulkner
Deputy President
ACOSH

1. Epidemiology Branch Department of Health Western Australia. Prevalence of Current and Daily Smokers, 18 years and over, 2002-2016, HWSS. 2017.
2. Epidemiology Branch, Public Health Division WAD of H. Western Australia tobacco and passive smoking related deaths in 2015. 2017.
3. Epidemiology Branch, Public Health Division WAD of H. Western Australia tobacco and passive smoking related hospitalisation in 2015. 2016.
4. AIHW. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2010 [Internet]. 2010. Available from: <http://aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129549848>