



EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

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MEDIA RELEASE

From: Dr J.M. Woollard, MLA
Chairman

To: ALL MEDIA

Date: 15 January 2009

INQUIRY INTO THE TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL 2008

On 4 December 2008, the Parliament resolved to request the Education and Health Standing Committee (EHSC) to report and make recommendations into the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008. An advertisement will appear in *The West Australian* on 17 January seeking submissions from interested individuals and organisations. Submissions close on 30 January and the EHSC will report to the Legislative Assembly by 19 March 2009.

The Committee Chairman, Dr J.M. Woollard, MLA, said “WA's legislation on tobacco has fallen behind that of other States. The tobacco epidemic has already claimed nearly one million victims in Australia since we knew about the dangers of smoking - and now there is also clear evidence on the dangers of passive smoking. Can we do more to protect non-smokers and prevent children from starting?”

YES. We know that there is strong public support for action to protect non-smokers and prevent children from starting to smoke. We want to hear from as many people and organisations as possible about the measures proposed in the Bill. Are they sensible? Are they adequate? Will they work? Can they be improved?”

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are:

- (1) To consider the adequacy of the proposed actions in the bill to protect children and adults from the harmful consequences of passive smoking.
- (2) To consider the adequacy of the proposed actions in the bill to protect children and adults from tobacco promotion.

The Committee invites written submissions on matters relating to the above terms of reference. Submissions are sought from the public that:

- (a) indicate whether they are for or against the Bill;
- (b) indicate why they are for or against the main thrust of the Bill; and
- (c) summarise the main changes they want to the Bill and why.

The members of the Committee are the Member for Alfred Cove (Dr J.M. Woollard, MLA), Chairman; the Member for Southern River (Mr Peter Abetz, MLA); the Member for Geraldton (Mr Ian Blayney, MLA); the Member for Fremantle (Hon. Jim McGinty, MLA) and the Member for Albany (Mr Peter Watson, MLA).

For further information, please contact the Committee's Chairman, Dr J.M. Woollard, MLA on: 9316 1377 or 0419 907 999, or the Committee's Principal Research Officer Dr David Worth on: 9222 7469.