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21 January 2009



Submission to Support Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008

Indicate whether we are for or against the Bill

We strongly support all aspects of the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008, which should be implemented without delay.

Indicate why we are for or against the Bill

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008 would be a timely addition to tobacco control efforts in Australia. Given the mounting evidence for the dangers of smoking and passive smoking, there is an increasing need to take action to protect non-smokers and prevent children from taking up smoking. Such action would also promote a supportive environment for people trying to quit smoking.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008 would play an important role in reducing the prevalence of daily smoking to below 9% by 2020, in line with the target of the Australian Government Preventative Health Taskforce. Reaching this target is paramount given tobacco use is the single-biggest preventable cause of death in Australia.

The Bill would also help to revive a loss of momentum in Western Australian efforts at tobacco control compared to the other states.

Ultimately, we feel there is strong public support for all measures presented in the Bill especially those protecting children and adults from both passive smoking and tobacco promotion.

Summarise the main changes we want to the Bill and why

There is no need for changes to the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008 and we recommend its implementation in its current form, without delay.

We trust that this submission will assist the Education and Health Standing Committee to report and make recommendation into the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008. Please contact us should you require any further verification of our support for this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Professor C. D'Arcy J. Holman
Chair in Public Health

Victoria Gray
Graduate Research Assistant