

Error!
Objects
cannot be
noted from

The University of Sydney

School of Public Health

Professor Simon Chapman
Director of Research
Commissioning Editor for Low and Middle Income
Countries, *Tobacco Control*

5 February 2009

Edward Ford Building A27
The University of Sydney 2006
AUSTRALIA
Phone: +61 (0)2 9351 5203
Fax: +61 (0)2 9036 9262
Mobile +61 (0)438 340304
E-mail: sc@med.usyd.edu.au

The Principal Research Officer
Education and Health Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament house
Perth WA 6000

Dear Dr Woollard,

I write to express my strong support for the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2008 currently tabled in the West Australian Parliament. As I wrote in my introduction to the 2008 Western Australian report on the history of tobacco control, Western Australia has long deserved national leadership in this field because it has pioneered progressive legislation and sustained public awareness campaigns with appropriate levels of funding.

As a result, Western Australian smoking rates have been the lowest in the country. This is something which of course translates into reductions in death rates from smoking-caused diseases, still daylight ahead of the next cause of death in Australia today.

In recent years, New South Wales in particular has invested heavily in tobacco control, and in one recent year, daily smoking prevalence was reported at 13.9%. Western Australia's position as Australia's leader in having reduced smoking problems most may well be under challenge.

The chief provisions of the bill -- including bans on retail displays, further restrictions on public smoking, and banning smoking in cars when children are on board, are each measures which are likely to attract concern from the tobacco industry. My 30 years of experience in this field have taught me that tobacco industry concern translates into loss of tobacco sales and growing "denormalisation" of smoking -- both of course, precisely effects which are precursors to declining tobacco-caused disease.

Sections of the tobacco industry are likely to try and claim that I am opposed to further extensions of smoking restrictions. I recently wrote an article for the British Medical Journal, where I expressed reservations about banning smoking in wide open spaces such as parks. I would emphasise emphatically though, that I am fully

supportive of and banning smoking in outdoor dining situations and in crowded or substantially frequented outdoor public areas and, of course, in circumstances (such as cars) where the health of children is at risk..

I congratulate you on developing this Bill, and am happy to emphasise my full support for it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Chapman', followed by a horizontal line.

Simon Chapman
NSW Premier's Cancer Researcher of the Year 2008
Public Health Association of Australia, Sidney Sax medallist 2008