

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee](#)
Subject: Public Submission - Inquiry into smoking and tobacco use at universities, TAFE facilities and registered training organisations
Date: Tuesday, 29 December 2015 10:29:49 AM

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Research Director
Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear research director,

Please accept my submission to the Committee's inquiry into smoking and tobacco use at universities, TAFE facilities and registered training organisations.

Tobacco takes a huge human toll and also financial toll on Queensland. According to Queensland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeanette Young, and Health Minister, Cameron Dick, tobacco use results in:

- The death of approximately 3,700 Queenslanders annually - or, over 10 people each day.
- Over 36,000 hospitalisations of Queenslanders annually.
- Costing the Queensland health budget \$2.5 Billion annually.
- Costing the Queensland economy an additional \$6.1 Billion in lost productivity annually.

Introducing a ban on smoking within the grounds of all Universities, TAFEs and registered training organisations would contribute to:

- Further change public perception regarding where it's acceptable to smoke in public, and to help even more people to understand their tobacco smoke impacts on people around them.
- Further de-normalise smoking and encourage students and staff not to begin smoking.
- Encourage more current smokers to quit.
- Reduce the number of non-smokers being exposed to the well documented danger of second-hand smoke.
- Reduce Queensland smoking rates below the current 14% of the adult population.
- Reduce the alarming human toll from tobacco.
- Reduce the alarming health costs from tobacco.

As a Registered Nurse of over 30 years, I have seen this preventable human toll way too much. Not only the premature deaths, but the years or decades of

debilitation and reduced quality of life suffered by many people with chronic damage due to tobacco use. We consider Queensland to be the smart state, yet allowing smoking in educational facilities - a place for leading by example - is not smart.

Parliament is currently considering banning smoking within the grounds of child care facilities, to add to the existing smoking bans in school yards and workplaces. If child care smoking bans are passed, then people will be protected from tobacco smoke in their pre-school years, school years and then workforce years - the missing gap will be their tertiary education years. If a student's pre-school and then school education would have protected them from second-hand tobacco smoke, it's good public health policy to also continue this protection through their entire tertiary education.

Most students at, TAFEs and RTOs are young people straight from school. This is an important stage in their lives, when young people can be influenced by peer pressure. It's far better to make healthy lifestyle choices in these formative years, and being in a smoke-free environment will support and encourage people to choose not to smoke, or to quit.

I understand that the South Bank TAFE campus and also the Australian Catholic University are two isolated Queensland locations which have banned smoking completely within their grounds. This is commendable and sets a great example for their students, staff and visitors. However, this protection must be provided in all tertiary education facilities.

I was surprised to find a Google search revealed many interstate universities have already introduced successful smoking bans within their entire grounds, with most university smoking bans covering all their campuses. Universities with entire smoking bans in place include (but may not be limited to):

- ACU Melbourne
- University of NSW
- Curtin university WA
- Notre Dame WA
- Federation university, Vic.
- University of Newcastle
- University of Western Australia
- Deakin university, Vic.
- University of Adelaide
- University of Melbourne
- Swinburne university
- University of South Australia
- Macquarie university
- RMIT university, Vic.
- La Trobe university, Vic.
- Monash university, Vic.
- Edith Cowan university
- University of Western Sydney

From the above list, it appears that Queensland universities are considerably behind their

interstate counterparts in introducing voluntary smoking bans, not to mention TAFEs and registered training organisations.

Five years ago I worked at a Queensland University health clinic as a Registered Nurse and it was common to see students and staff smoking in courtyards, common areas and on footpaths, usually exposing other people to second-hand tobacco smoke. This was disappointing to see, particularly in a place of learning. This university still doesn't have a smoking ban in place.

I urge the Committee to recommend a complete ban on smoking within the grounds of all tertiary education facilities.

Sincerely

Phil Browne
Registered Nurse

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"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realised I was somebody": Lily Tomlin

Believe in Equality for all?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_TBd-UCwVAY

<http://www.australianmarriageequality.org/subscribe-to-our-supporter-database/>