

19 January 2016

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

Red Hill 4059

By email: etsbc@parliament.qld.gov.au.

amaq@amaq.com.au

ACN: 009 660 280
ABN: 17 009 660 280

Thank you for inviting AMA Queensland to provide a submission to the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee's inquiry into smoking and tobacco use at universities, technical and further education facilities, and registered training organisations.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing over 6000 medical practitioners across Queensland and throughout all levels of the health system. They are on the front lines of the health system and see firsthand the impact smoking has on the community.

Queensland's smoking rates are comparatively still relatively high, with the third highest proportion of smokers (17%) behind the Northern Territory (24%) and Tasmania (22%)¹. The latest Australian Health Survey reveals diseases of the respiratory system, such as lung cancer, are the most prevalent form of disease in Queensland.²

To its credit, the Queensland Government has recently enacted tough new smoking laws which ban smoking in indoor and outdoor public areas, as well as restrictions on the promotion, sale and display of tobacco products. This is to be commended.

AMA Queensland is, therefore, highly supportive of any measures which will decrease smoking rates. In two recent submissions to the Health and Ambulance Committee, AMA Queensland and the Heart Foundation supported both the Government's *Tobacco and other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015* and the Member for Caloundra's *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill*.

We refer the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee to these submissions as we believe they clearly articulate our position on the terms of reference of your current inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Dr Chris Zappala
President
Australian Medical Association Queensland

Jane Schmitt
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Medical Association Queensland

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Health Survey: First Results, 2011-12,
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4364.0.55.0012011-12?OpenDocument>

² *ibid*