

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2015 12:59 PM
To: Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Subject: Public submission - Tobacco and other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015

Phil Browne
[REDACTED]

Dear staff,

1. Please see below my public submission.
2. I wish to attend the public hearing please on Wednesday, 16 September 2015. Can I register now to attend the public hearing please?

Public Submission:

As a Registered Nurse for over 30 years, I have seen huge suffering/disability, premature deaths, and huge health costs from tobacco. I support the further reforms in the Tobacco and other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015. However, the proposed amendments do not go far enough - and further action is required to protect the health of Queenslanders by further reducing the incidence of Qlders who smoke, to below the current 14% of the population, and to reduce the known harm caused by passive smoking. Tobacco is a known public health danger that kills both smokers, and also non-smokers.

The govt has a responsibility to take further strong action on tobacco. It is not only the many deaths, as a nurse I also see the chronic disability and huge financial and emotional cost this places on society.

Currently Qld liquor licenced premises are allowed a Designated Outdoor Smoking Area (DOSA) of 50% of the outdoor area (beer gardens etc). This allows large numbers of Qlders to effectively bypass the intention of tobacco control legislation and undermines the effectiveness of the Tobacco and other Smoking Products Act. It also places staff in known danger from passive smoking. This must change.

Liquor-licenced premisses must move toward being 100% smoke-free - especially as research shows smoking rates in some of the younger ages in Qld are actually increasing.

It's also common to see smoking in outdoor common areas of TAFEs and Universities. As places of education, the grounds of these facilities should be made 100% smoke-free, following the ban on smoking in Qld school grounds.

Numerous studies have shown that smoking in outdoor areas is harmful to health. One such study conducted by Curtin University, concludes that:

"Smoking increases PM2.5 (particulate matter) concentrations in outdoor areas to levels that are potentially hazardous to health."

See the report here http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/watdsp/local/docs/second_hand_smoke_in_alfresco_areas.pdf

Another report by the Heart Foundation, states:

- "A non-smoker's risk of heart disease can be increased by up to 25–30% if they are exposed to second-hand smoke. British research suggests that the effect may be even greater, with one study reporting the increased risk of heart disease as high as 50-60%.
- There is growing evidence that non-smokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke have an increased risk of stroke.
- Even very short-term exposure to second-hand smoke (as little as 30 minutes) can harm your body's cardiovascular system.
- People who already have heart disease or have a higher risk of heart disease should take care to avoid being exposed to second-hand smoke because it can cause more immediate risks to their health."

See the report here <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/SecondhandSmoking-ISC.pdf>

In summary, in addition to the proposed changes in this bill, the following changes need to also be made to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act:

1. Ban smoking in the grounds of all TAFEs and universities.
2. Remove the 50% smoking area in outdoor liquor-licenced premises (DOSAs), resulting in all outdoor liquor-licenced areas becoming 100% smoke free.

Sincerely

Phil Browne

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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/>