

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)  
Subject: Public submission - Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014  
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Phil Browne  
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Re: I support the proposed amendments to strengthen the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*

Dear Committee

As a health professional, I support the proposed amendments to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*, which are required to further protect the health of Queenslanders and to further reduce the incidence of Qlders who smoke, to below the current 14% of the population. Furthermore - the proposed amendments do not go far enough, and even stronger measures are required.

I have read the report by the World Health Organisation report warning of the dangers of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), commonly called electronic cigarettes. I have also read the Public Briefing - Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, Qld Parliament Health and Community Services Committee, dated 10 September 2014.

I support the intentions of both these documents regarding further restrictions on e-cigarettes, plus further smoking bans in school-yards, hospital grounds and prisons.

I regularly attend bars and clubs in Brisbane and Fortitude Valley. It's common to see people using e-cigarettes in both indoor areas and also in outdoor non-smoking areas of licenced premises.

The World Health Organisation report states:

*"legal steps should be taken to end use of e-cigarettes indoors in public and work places. Evidence suggests that exhaled e-cigarette aerosol increases the background air level of some toxicants, nicotine and particles."*

*"existing evidence shows that e-cigarette aerosol is not merely "water vapour" as is often claimed in the marketing of these products."*

*"E-cigarettes also increase the exposure of non-smokers and bystanders to nicotine and a number of toxicants"*

Staff and the general public do not challenge people smoking e-cigarettes indoors and in outdoor non-smoking areas, because there is no current legislation to this effect. This legislation is needed as a matter of urgency, prior to the predicted explosion in the use of e-cigarettes.

Regarding the need for further measures to reduce harm from tobacco. It is still common for the general public to be routinely exposed to passive smoking, and the well documented dangers posed by 2nd hand tobacco smoke.

I refer specifically to the public being exposed to passive smoking at:

- bus stops (try waiting for a bus at any bus stop on Adelaide St Brisbane CBD or the Cultural Centre busway, and trying to avoid 2nd hand smoke)
- taxi ranks
- ferry terminals
- train stations
- the grounds of TAFEs and universities
- pedestrian malls

All public transport waiting points and pedestrian malls should be made smoke free. These are areas where often large numbers of people congregate in close proximity, and 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](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>

It's welcome to have a smoke-free Queen St mall - however, no other Councils have enforced the optional smoking ban in malls, as is allowed under the current Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. This option in the Act, must be removed, and the Act must require that all pedestrian malls in Qld must be smoke-free.

In summary - the following changes need to be made to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act:

1. Ban use of e-cigarettes in areas where tobacco use is currently banned.
2. Further strengthen smoking bans in school-yards, hospital grounds and prisons.
3. Ban smoking in the grounds of all TAFEs and universities.
4. Ban smoking at all public transport waiting points (bus, train, taxi and ferry).
5. Remove the option for Councils to ban smoking in pedestrian malls, and replace it with a mandatory smoking ban in all pedestrian malls.

Can I please be advised of the outcome of this committee inquiry, plus any future changes to legislation.

Sincerely

Phil Browne  
Registered Nurse.