



Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP
c/o The Research Director
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

24th September 2014

Dear Mr Ruthenberg,

Lung disease is a significant and growing health issue for Australians. The sobering statistics below show how urgent the need is to press forward with legislation that aims to protect public health and further the goal of the de-normalisation of smoking.

- Cigarette smoking has been linked to a number of respiratory diseases and is the single largest cause of developing COPD and lung cancer.¹²
- About 90% of lung cancer in males and 65% in females is estimated to be a result of tobacco smoking.³
- A known lung disease risk factor is passive smoking.⁴
- Over 11,270 Australians are diagnosed with lung cancer each year. This figure is expected to increase by 21% by the year 2020.⁵
- Approximately 14% of all deaths each year in Australia are a result of lung disease.⁶

For these reasons, among others, Lung Foundation Australia supports the recent proposed reforms to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*.

Lung Foundation Australia therefore applauds:

- the extension of smoking bans to include the use of personal vaporising devices such as e-cigarettes (and their associated components), and
- the extension of smoking bans on and around health facilities, school grounds and in prisons.

We further approve of:

- the prohibition of their sale and supply to children,
- the restriction of advertising and display, and
- the prohibition of their use in smoke-free places.⁷

These changes will reinforce the positive steps taken in recent years to reduce the visibility, incidence and impact of smoking, and will ultimately contribute towards protecting the health of all in Australia.



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While there are fewer toxins in e-cigarettes than in traditional cigarettes, there are no long-term studies on the safety of e-cigarettes. Concern has been expressed about the small particles inhaled when “vaping” and their health impact, particularly on youth.^{8 9} There are other risks voiced internationally regarding the lack of product regulation, the visibility of addictive behavior, and the risk of poisoning, especially among minors. With insufficient evidence on the safety and other risks of e-cigarettes, the Lung Foundation believes the new legislation to be a wise precaution.

The Lung Foundation also advocates the extension of smoking bans. There is an established link between exposure to second hand smoke and the risk of developing lung disease such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma and lung cancer^{10 11 12 13}.

Evidence shows exposure to second-hand smoke in those with established respiratory disease, particularly those with severe asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, can worsen symptoms and risk exacerbations that may result in the need for hospitalisation.¹⁴

In light of established evidence related to risk of exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke, and the increasing evidence that demonstrates risk of exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke in an outdoor setting, Lung Foundation Australia supports the Queensland government’s efforts to ban smoking from crowded public spaces.

The Lung Foundation continues to support the regulations against smoking in other crowded public facilities, including:

- Enclosed public spaces
- Outdoor dining venues and the footpath
- Sporting stadia and grounds
- Within 10 metres of council buildings
- Children’s playgrounds
- Transport waiting areas, ie bus stops, taxi stands
- Outdoor market areas

Lung Foundation Australia is a national charity that aims to ensure lung health is a priority for all in Australia. Our head office is in Brisbane and we can be reached at www.lungfoundation.com.au or on 1800 654 301.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Heather Allan
Chief Executive Officer



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- ¹ Cancer Australia, 2011, *Report to the Nation - Lung Cancer 2011*, Cancer Australia, Sydney, NSW.
- ² David K McKenzie, Michael Abramson, Alan J Crockett, Nicholas Glasgow, Sue Jenkins, Christine McDonald, Richard Wood-Baker, Peter A Frith. *The COPD-X Plan: Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease 2007*. Lung Foundation Australia, www.copdx.org.au
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- ⁴ McKenzie DK et al, *The COPDX Plan*.
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- ⁷ Queensland Government, 1998, *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*, Current as at 15 Nov 2013, <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TobaccoOSmPrA98.pdf>, Accessed: 02/10/2014.
- ⁸ Bistreich-Wolfe & Spangenberg 29 April 2014, *Electronic cigarettes may cause, worsen respiratory diseases, among youth, study finds*, RTI International, <http://www.rti.org/newsroom/news.cfm?obj=C6EFA34B-0757-4185-CE29DB92E8231C67> Accessed: 15/05/2014.
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- ¹² Janson C., 2004, *The effect of passive smoking on respiratory health in children and adults*. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 2004 8(5):510-516.
- ¹³ National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), November 1997, *The Health Effects of Passive Smoking – A Scientific Information Paper*. Commonwealth of Australia. Canberra.
- ¹⁴ Repace, James L., 2008, *Benefits of smoke-free regulations in outdoor settings: beaches, golf courses, parks, patios and in motor vehicles*. ADC 2008 1621-1638.

