




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Smoking Reforms

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.58 am): All members will be aware of the terrible damage that smoking causes to Queenslanders. Each year 3,700 Queenslanders will die as a result of smoking. That is over 10 people each and every day. Smoking is responsible for over 36,000 hospitalisations in Queensland each year. Smoking is also a burden on our state's economy and businesses. Each year in Queensland an estimated \$6.1 billion in lost productivity, health costs and premature death can be attributed to smoking.

Later today I will be introducing legislation into the House that will see further restrictions placed on smoking. Under this legislation Queensland will have the toughest antismoking laws in the country. Under this legislation local councils will be given the power to ban smoking in public spaces not covered by statewide bans. The legislation will also ban smoking at or near children's organised sporting events and skate parks; ban smoking in and around approved early childhood education and care services, including kindergartens and places offering after-hours care; ban smoking at all residential aged-care facilities outside of designated areas; increase the smoke-free buffer at all government, commercial and non-residential building entrances from four to five metres; ban smoking at pedestrian precincts around prescribed state government buildings, such as 1 William Street; ban smoking at specified national parks or parts of national parks and at public swimming pools; ban smoking at all outdoor pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points; and ban the sale of tobacco products from pop-up retail outlets, such as at music festivals.

A wide range of consultation has occurred with local councils, childcare organisations and many other Queenslanders interested in this topic. The legislation is strongly supported by the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and the Cancer Council Queensland. Cancer Council Queensland chief executive, Professor Jeff Dunn AO, said—

This Bill responds to community appeals for smoke-free places and acknowledges the evidence that most smokers want to quit, but need to be nudged. It raises the global benchmark in tobacco control and sets a new standard for public health and wellbeing.

Australian Medical Association Queensland president, Dr Chris Zappala, said, 'These proposed laws will make Queensland the nation's leader in antismoking legislation.' I sincerely thank the Cancer Council Queensland and the AMA Queensland for their support for the government's proposed legislation and thank them for the work they do for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is implementing reform and introducing legislation which will improve the health of all Queenslanders.