



SmokeFree

SmokeFree Tasmania

Media Statement

27 March 2015

Tasmania praised again for tobacco reforms

Recognising that we stand at the crossroads of the tobacco epidemic with the future in our hands, the latest Editorial from the prestigious international Journal the Lancet Respiratory published on March 26 has praised Tasmania for its efforts:

“Some courageous governments are already leading the way. The Tasmanian upper house is currently considering an amendment to the Public Health Act 1997 to make it illegal for retailers to sell, supply, or gift tobacco products to anyone born after Jan 1, 2000—the Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-Free Generation) Bill 2014. If successful, the amendment could be made law as early as 2018, allowing Tasmania to create the first tobacco-free generation.”

The Editorial goes on to urge a close monitoring with culpability recognised of tobacco industry misconduct:

“On March 13, The Lancet published a three-paper Series calling for a tobacco-free world by 2040—the aim is to see less than 5% of adults using tobacco products by that year. To this end, it is imperative that an ambitious tobacco reduction target is included in WHO’s post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals. To succeed, there must be close monitoring of the tobacco industry’s behaviour, with culpability for misconduct, and governments should emulate Tasmania’s courage and strive to phase out the sale of tobacco products completely.”

“SmokeFree Tasmania applauds all those politicians and organisations who are supporting the *Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-free Generation) Bill 2014*”, said former WHO tobacco expert, and Past President, Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco, now living in Tasmania, Dr. Harley Stanton.

The full text: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanres/PIIS2213-2600\(15\)00114-9.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanres/PIIS2213-2600(15)00114-9.pdf)

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