Dear Mr Dean

I write on behalf of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH). ACOSH is an independent, non-government, not for profit coalition established in 1971, and represents a further 39 prominent health and community organisations with a shared concern about smoking and its harmful consequences.

ACOSH has played a major role in many of the changes to policy and legislation in Australia that have reduced the national prevalence of smoking from around one in three in the late 1970s to one in ten in 2019.

As a result, Australia has recorded a significant reduction in the chronic and serious diseases caused by smoking including lung cancer (men), heart attacks and strokes, and chronic obstructive lung disease.

As you will be aware, two thirds of all smokers will die prematurely as a result of their smoking.

ACOSH strongly supports a comprehensive approach to reduce smoking in Australia, as confirmed by the National Preventative Health Taskforce<<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/424426/nphs-overview.pdf>>, which includes the following important strategies:

  \*   Make tobacco products significantly more expensive
  \*   Increase the frequency, reach and intensity of social marketing campaigns
  \*   End all forms of advertising and promotion of tobacco products
  \*   Eliminate exposure to second hand smoke in public places
  \*   Regulate manufacturing and further regulate packaging and supply of tobacco products
  \*   Ensure all smokers in contact with health services are encouraged and supported to quit
  \*   Work in partnership with Indigenous groups to boost effort to reduce smoking and exposure to tobacco among Indigenous Australians
  \*   Boost efforts to discourage smoking in other highly disadvantaged groups
  \*   Assist parents and educators to discourage tobacco use and protect young people from second hand smoke
  \*   Ensure the public, media, politicians and other opinion leaders remain aware of the need for sustained and vigorous action to discourage tobacco use
  \*   Ensure implementation and measure progress against and towards targets
The proposed amendment to Tasmania’s Public Health Act to raise the minimum legal age of purchase to 21 (T21) could complement the existing comprehensive approach that has led to Australia being recognised as a world leader in tobacco control.
If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Kind Regards

Maurice G Swanson OAM MPH BSc
Chief Executive
0401 090915
[ACOSH New Logo small]
334 Rokeby Road, Subiaco WA 6008
[www.acosh.org](http://www.acosh.org/)<[http://www.acosh.org](http://www.acosh.org/)>

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