

The Honourable Will Hodgman MP  
Premier of Tasmania  
Parliament House  
Hobart Tasmania 7000  
By email: [will.hodgman@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:will.hodgman@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hodgman,

Re: Increasing the minimum legal purchasing age of tobacco to 21 in Tasmania

Tobacco smoking is still the leading cause of preventable disease and premature death in Australia<sup>1</sup>, with long term smoking killing two in three users<sup>2</sup>. Tasmania has the second highest smoking rate in the country, with around 1 in 5 Tasmanians who currently smoke.

We commend the efforts of your government to reduce smoking prevalence in Tasmania and your ongoing investment in proven effective tobacco control measures as set out in the Tasmanian Tobacco Control Plan 2017-21.

Cancer Council Australia is watching with interest as Tasmania debates the *Public Health Amendment (Prevention Of Sale Of Smoking Products To Underage Persons) Bill* that proposes increasing the minimum legal purchasing age of tobacco to 21 years.

We welcome policy reform that is evidence-based, feasible, broadly acceptable to the community and is likely to reduce smoking prevalence. We look forward to seeing how the Bill unfolds and understanding its potential impact on smoking prevalence should it be passed.

This Bill has the potential to be the forerunner of national change, with Tasmania demonstrating national leadership in making tobacco control a priority again.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sanchia Aranda AM  
Chief Executive Officer



Libby Jardine  
Chair, Tobacco Issues Committee

<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015. Leading cause of premature mortality in Australia fact sheet: lung cancer. Cat. no. PHE 192. Canberra: AIHW.

<sup>2</sup> Banks, E. et al (2015). Tobacco smoking and all-cause mortality in a large Australian cohort study: Findings from a mature epidemic with current low smoking prevalence. *BMC Medicine*, 13, 38.