



strokefoundation

27 August

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Health and Ambulance Services Committee
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Dear Mr Hastie,

Re: *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill*

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill* (the Bill).

The National Stroke Foundation (NSF) strongly supports and endorses any measures that will reduce the burden of smoking on the community. Smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death and is a major cause of heart attack, stroke and peripheral vascular disease.

The NSF would therefore welcome the opportunity to increase the size and number of smoke free areas in public places and reduce exposure to passive smoking caused by second-hand smoke.

As such, the NSF supports the proposed amendments in the Bill to strengthen the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* and improve the health of Queenslanders.

The 2012 Queensland Chief Health Officer report – ***The health of Queenslanders 2012: advancing good health*** – shows that smoking rates in Queensland have been declining and is a good reflection of the effectiveness of previous legislative changes designed to restrict smoking and its effects. However there is still more work to do.

In 2012, 14.3% of adult Queenslanders were daily smokers, 2.9% were smokers but not daily, 28% were ex-smokers and 55% had never smoked.¹

¹ The Health of Queenslanders 2012: advancing good health.
http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cho_report/2012/documents/2012-cho-report-all.pdf

As such, the majority of people in Queensland do not smoke and we believe support anti-smoking measures such as smoke free areas. The NSF supports any measures that will reduce the level of smoking in and around public places, particularly those frequented by young people and children. Passive smoking is known to increase the chances of a non-smoker developing lung cancer² and is also known to increase the risks of having a stroke.³

Further to our support of the proposed amendments, the NSF also supports the move to prevent young people and non-smokers from being exposed to the promotion of e-cigarettes. The uptake of e-cigarettes has been high in recent years. The WHO estimates that since 2005, the e-cigarette industry has grown from one manufacturer in China to an estimated US\$3 billion global business with 466 brands. The tobacco industry is now well entrenched in this market and making many unsubstantiated health claims about e-cigarettes. The NSF therefore supports the Heart Foundation's additional proposed amendments that request personal vaporiser devices be included with tobacco products.

The NSF has also been consulted by the Heart Foundation who have developed a comprehensive response to the proposed amendments. The NSF supports all of the proposed amendments in the Heart Foundation submission.

For further information please feel free to contact me on 3084 6384

Yours Sincerely



Libby Dunstan
**Executive Officer, Queensland
National Stroke Foundation**

² National Heart Foundation. Second-hand smoking and your health.
<http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/SecondhandSmoking-ISC.pdf>

³ Bonita R, Duncan J, Truelsen T et al., (1999). Passive Smoking as Well as Active Smoking Increases the Risk of Acute Stroke. *Tobacco Control*, 8: p. 156-160.