



# Protecting our next generation from the toll of tobacco

## Insight news update: August edition

**Cancer Council Queensland has called on the Queensland Government to ban cigarette displays in shops, in a bid to protect Queensland's next generation from tobacco-related disease.**

Community Education Strategies Manager for Cancer Council Queensland, Deborah Gillespie, says point-of-sale legislation for cigarettes is long overdue in Queensland.

“Retail promotion of cigarettes must be banned in order to curb current rates of smoking, to discourage young Queenslanders from starting up the habit.”

9.3 per cent of 14 to 19 year-olds in Queensland smoke.

“Young people are especially vulnerable to retail promotions and are easily influenced by marketing and cigarette packaging,” Ms Gillespie says.

“We need new laws to ensure our next generation of Queenslanders doesn't follow the current tragic pattern of 3,400 deaths each year from tobacco-related disease.”

Although daily smoking trends in Queensland have been declining, 17.2 per cent of Queenslanders aged 14 years and older smoke daily, which is significantly

greater than the national rate of 16.6 percent.

In fact, Queensland's smoking prevalence is one of the worst in Australia, with only Tasmania and the Northern Territory recording higher rates.

Ms Gillespie says until recently, Queensland was one of the state leaders in the implementation of tobacco control laws.

“Queensland was one of the states that pursued the early introduction of legislation to ban smoking inside pubs, clubs, restaurants, workplaces, commercial outdoor eating and drinking areas, and outdoor public places such as patrolled beaches,



### CANCER FACT:

In a 2005 study by Queensland Health, 32,000 Queensland school children aged 12 to 17 years reported smoking in the previous week.

on children's playground equipment, in major sport stadiums and within four metres of non-residential building entrances.

"We also acted earlier than other states to ban tobacco advertising and competitions, outlawing sales of tobacco products to children under 18.

"We currently have laws that mandate training for employees who sell tobacco, compulsory anti-smoking signage in shops that sell tobacco, and restrictions on how tobacco products can be displayed.

"However, we need to go further and enforce a ban on cigarette displays in shops."

Recent reviews of Queensland tobacco laws have proposed a ban on smoking in cars carrying children under 16 years and a transfer of power from the State Government to local governments to regulate smoking in pedestrian malls

and in public places, such as bus stops, taxi ranks, and ferry terminals.

These laws are due to be passed by Queensland Parliament this year.

While the Cancer Council welcomes tougher laws on tobacco, these laws should be broadened to provide greater protection for Queensland children.

"Current laws must be revised to include a ban on cigarette displays in shops, and should include an extension of the smoking in cars legislation to offer protection for all children under 18 years old,"

Ms Gillespie says.

"The Cancer Council has also repeatedly urged the State Government to take responsibility for governing smoking in public places, rather than passing it like a hot potato to local councils.

"The Cancer Council has called on the Queensland

Government to create state-wide laws that set firm regulations for smoking in public places, in order to protect people from exposure to second-hand smoke."

Queensland Health surveys show over 80 per cent of Queenslanders support tougher government powers to ban smoking.

"It's very encouraging to see strong community support for anti-tobacco laws, but we still require the political will to improve protections for Queenslanders."

**For more information about Cancer Council Queensland's work in tobacco control, or for support with quitting, you can contact our Tobacco Programs Team Leader, Emma Dalglish, on 07 3258 2254.**



**CANCER FACT:**

Current research estimates that 20.3 per cent of Queensland mothers smoked at some stage during their pregnancy. Cancer Council Queensland has developed a special resource, *Baby & You*, to help pregnant women quit smoking. To request a copy of the resource, please call our Cancer Council Helpline.



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