

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

Not only does smoke get in your eyes, it also gets in to the lungs of children in cars of parents who smoke according to MLC Ruth Forrest. "I believe the next step reducing the health implications of smoking is to educate parents and the community of the devastating impact smoking in a closed environment, such as a car, has on the children innocently exposed to it," said the Member for Murchison.

"I whole heartedly welcomed the State Government's decision to ban smoking in bars and clubs for the health and wellbeing of the bar staff and non-smoking patrons and I fully support the move to investigate the possibility of banning smoking in cars where children are present" said Ms Forrest.

"Whilst this would be a difficult area to police, a government that considers this an issue serious enough to legislate against will send a clear message to people who choose to smoke in confined areas with children present, that this is unacceptable, a situation that is thoroughly backed up with research" Ms Forrest said.

"The same principal applies as has been used in banning smoking in bars and clubs to vehicles with children present, protection of those who are unable to remove themselves from the exposure to known harmful substances, a situation of such importance cannot be understated when considering the future health of these children, our next generation" Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest called on the Lennon Government to make a swift decision based on the available research and evidence. "For the sake of children's health let's not ponder this issue for too long a period – all the research, evidence and commonsense in the world points to the fact that exposure to poisonous tobacco fumes in a closed environment is detrimental to ones health". "These children that are being exposed to cigarette smoke in vehicles for possibly hours on end need our voice to be heard. They are innocent children, inhaling deadly poisons and their health needs in years to come will far outweigh the cost of an education program to save their health now" said Ms Forrest.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.