

Email: [jmackay1@netvigator.com](mailto:jmackay1@netvigator.com)

08 June 2015

The Secretary  
Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-free Generation) Bill 2014  
Parliament of Tasmania  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS 7000  
[tfg@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:tfg@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Bills Committee,

I would like to make a submission of encouragement to the Parliament of Tasmania to adopt this Bill.

**VULNERABLE ADOLESCENTS:** We now know that the adolescent brain begins to mature at the age of about 16 years, but the frontal lobes develop last, in the early 20s. The frontal lobes are the seat of mature, long-term decisions making and adult judgement, so with smoking (and other areas in life), it is imperative to protect youth from smoking until the mid or late-twenties, after which it is unlikely that they will ever start. This is confirmed by a recent GATS survey (Global Adult Tobacco Survey), which showed that in every country surveyed, the average age of starting to smoke was under the age of 20.

#### LIFELONG NON-SMOKERS

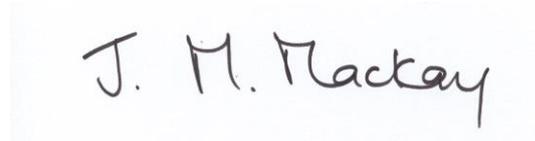
The Tasmanian government has a unique opportunity to go even further, and create a generation of non-smokers, so that smoking would gradually be phased out. It would be particularly relevant, as a ban on sales to minors is generally ineffective.

1. It would show that smoking (and other tobacco use) is NOT an acceptable adult activity, so that youth would not consider it a norm after a 'rights of passage' to adulthood
2. It would accelerate the end-game target for tobacco
3. It would have particular beneficial impact on low and middle-income families (who are the heaviest smokers)
4. Some health effects in youth would be immediate, such as those with asthma, sports performance, or in pregnancy
5. It will improve the health of non-smokers who would otherwise have been exposed to environmental tobacco smoke
6. It would ease enforcement of tobacco-free laws
7. Where studies have been done, eg in Singapore, the idea has achieved wide support; even most smokers do not want their children to engage in a dangerous, addictive and expensive habit, that kills at least 1 out of every 2 smokers.
8. It should be relatively easy to implement

I would be happy to supply further information on any of these points.

Finally, most low-income countries would not have the expertise and resources to pioneer this legislation. Australia is a high-income country and an Australian state law would act as an exemplar; thus the ramifications of this Bill would be far reaching, beyond the shores of Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Prof Dr Judith Mackay, SBS, OBE, JP, MBChB (Edin), FRCP(Edin), FRCP(Lon)  
Director, Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, Hong Kong  
Senior Advisor, World Lung Foundation/Bloomberg Initiative to reduce Tobacco in low and middle income countries