

Submission

No 32

**INQUIRY INTO TOBACCO SMOKING IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation:

Name: Ms Kim Curtis

Telephone:

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Theme:

Summary

JSC TOBACCO SMOKING

Kim Curtis

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To all Members of the Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking.

As a mother of two young children who frequently takes them to council parks I am writing to request that your committee look into making them smoke free zones, state wide.

Queensland has already banned smoking within 10m of playground equipment from January 2005. They also have a ban on beaches, swimming pools and sporting grounds. NSW is lagging in caring for the health of my children and its time we took action to also put these bans into place.

I have been successful in my campaign within my own shire gaining unanimous support from Lismore City Councillors to ban smoking in both children's playgrounds and Councils swimming pools. The public have embraced the ban and accepted that it makes sense. I have received many kind words for pushing this through and even phone calls from strangers to say how good it is that Council has made this decision.

The problem is when we get visitors to the area who are unaware of the bans and use the park as a rest area on their journeys through the district. If it was known that nowhere is it acceptable to smoke near children and we standardised these bans, everyone would know where they stood.

It would also be nice to know that when we have holidays out of our shire we can enjoy other parks that have been set aside for children to enjoy. I have heard the argument "But it is my right to smoke a legal product". My reply to that is "It is not legal for children to smoke and when you enter their space you should not force them to be subjected to passive smoke".

It's not just that they are too young to smoke, we all are, it's also the negative visual lessons smokers inflict on children by role modelling and normalising it.

I am seeking your support with the following wording, "Smoking is prohibited within 10 metres of playgrounds, playing fields, Sporting Grounds, and Swimming Pools in NSW. Swimming Pools are also places children go and are unable to move away from smokers. This wording is needed because it defines the area. A playground has a fenced area and children run and play within that area. Other wordings have used "within 10m of playground equipment" but that means legally people could smoke between a swing and a slide that are in the same playground, making children run through the smoke. Our local pool at Lismore has banned smoking everywhere but a far downwind corner which works well.

I love my children and it is my job to ensure they are protected to grow up healthy and not have a minority inflict their bad choices on them.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my proposal

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