

**Submission**

**No 31**

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

**Organisation:**

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

1. Smoke – free Environment Amendment (Motor Vehicle Prohibition) Bill 2005  
introduced by Revd Mr Nile in the Legislative Council

I support the Smoke – free Environment Amendment (Motor Vehicle Prohibition) Bill 2005 which will prohibit smoking in motor vehicles. Just as using a mobile phone is a distraction when driving, so is cigarette smoking.

This bill is important as it deals with the following important issues:

1. It prevents people in motor vehicles (drivers and passengers) suffering the harmful effects of passive smoking. We need to pay attention to research which shows that second – hand smoke can cause cancer, respiratory infections and asthma.

I am particularly concerned about children who may be sitting in the back seat of a car while his/her parent/s are smoking in the front of the car, and who may suffer from the harmful effects of passive smoking.

I am also concerned about pregnant women who may be in a car while someone is smoking and the harmful effects of passive smoking on the unborn baby.

2. It contributes to safe driving and has potential to prevent motor vehicle accidents. Smoking when driving can cause drivers to be distracted in the following ways:

a) A driver who is smoking can stop concentrating on his/her driving if he/she drops ash onto his clothes or drops a lit cigarette on his/her lap. This may cause the driver to lose control of the motor vehicle.

b) A driver who wants to light a cigarette may use the vehicle cigarette lighter. Removing the lighter from the socket to light a cigarette can cause the driver to be distracted and may cause an accident.

c) Drivers who smoke are distracted when they get rid of cigarette ash either into the ashtray in the vehicle or by flicking the ash from the cigarette out the window. This prevents the driver from fully concentrating on driving .

3. Some drivers who smoke dispose of their cigarette butts by throwing them out the car window. This actions increases the amount of litter in the environment and can cause bushfires.

This legislation will save many lives. It is just as important as the legislation regarding the compulsory wearing of seatbelts.

## 2. The effectiveness of media, educative, community and medically-based Quit initiatives

More resources need to be put into schools to address the needs of students who choose to smoke, as well as to prevent students who do not smoke from starting. The established fact that smoking kills needs to be made clear.

More information needs to be made available through the media and through schools about the harmful effects of smoking. Real-life stories about people who have suffered from smoking or died from smoking need to be made available as an educational resource.

An up to date, comprehensive educational quit smoking program needs to be developed and made available to all schools. Students who are caught smoking at school, as a consequence, need to undertake this quit smoking course.

## 3. Smoking indoors

Smoking in all workplaces needs to be banned in order for all NSW employees to experience safe working conditions. I am concerned that smoking still occurs in the the club/pub industry. Staff in these workplaces suffer from the harmful effects of smoking.

I trust these comments will be of some assistance to the Committee.

From: Mr Joe Alvaro