

Submission

No 12

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

Organisation: Cancer Voices Inc
Name: Ms Sally Crossing
Position: Chair
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Date Received: 31/03/2006

Theme:

Summary

The Director
Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking.
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

JSC TOBACCO SMOKING

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Dear Sir or Madam

Inquiry into Tobacco Smoking in New South Wales

Cancer Vices NSW is pleased to contribute to this Inquiry by rhe NSW Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking. Our submission is not confidential.

Cancer Voices NSW is the peak coalition for cancer support and advocacy groups in NSW. Established in 2000, It provides a voice for the 4,000 members of those groups and works to improve the cancer journey for people affected by cancer. We are interested in the areas of prevention, diagnosis, information, treatment, research, support and care. Similar Cancer Voices have been established in all Australian states and territories, and now nationally.

Cancer Voices exhorts the Joint Committee to recommend that NSW takes the strongest possible position for protecting the community and the public purse from the harmful effects of tobacco smoking.

Studies have shown that that tobacco smoking costs the state of NSW \$6.6 billion per year in 1998/99 (David Collins & Helen Lapsky, Macquarie University,2005). Prevention measures would be one of the most cost effective things a government could do in a situation like this.

We support:

- High taxes on the sale of cigarettes
- The use of revenue so collected for health promotion, particularly that regarding smoking related diseases.
- Completion of smoking bans in the workplace, indoor public areas and pubs and clubs
- No smoking on hospital premises, either inside or outside (CVN members report the latter is rarely enforced).
- Removal of cigarettes and tobacco advertising from visible points of sale.
- Collaboration between the Cancer Institute NSW, NSW Health and the Cancer Council NSW in a joint, long-term anti-smoking campaign

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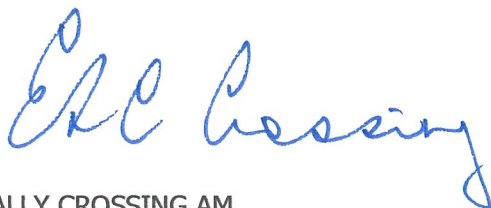
It is well known and well documented that tobacco smoking has major negative impacts on health. Our specific interest is in the cancers it causes or augments. Tobacco smoking is one of the very few behaviours which is both truly modifiable and which does have a high correlation with the development of a major cancer killer – lung cancer. Risk factors for most other cancers (except perhaps sun and melanoma) are very low in comparison to the causal connection relationship between tobacco and lung cancer. The public health dollar spent to influence the population not to smoke has a greater bang for the buck than that spent on any other disease or behaviour.

This is a global problem and we need to do our part to save lives and health dollars. A survey of international data shows that more than one in five cancer deaths in the world in the year 2000 were caused by smoking, making it possibly the largest preventable cause of cancer mortality (Source: Ezzati m, Henley SJ, Lopez AD, Thun MU, International Journal of Cancer Oct 10, 2005)

For all these reasons we believe that the Inquiry should recommend that NSW reduces smoking levels by policy development, regulation and public education.

As people living with cancer, we see that there is one very obvious course of action that will help spare others the trauma of a cancer diagnosis, treatment regimes and possible early death – reduce smoking in NSW.

Yours sincerely



SALLY CROSSING AM
Chair, 28 March 2006