

Submission

No 20

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

Organisation: Sikh Council of Australia Inc
Name: Mr Bawa Singh Jagdev
Position: Secretary
Telephone:
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Theme:

Summary

Sikh Council Of Australia Inc

170- Ninth Avenue Austral N.S.W 2179

Inc. No: INC9877869

Tuesday, 11 April 2006

The Chairperson,
Joint Select Committee,
On Tobacco Smoking In New South Wales,
Legislative Council Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to the Standing Committee for Inquiry into tobacco smoking in New South Wales

Sikh Council is an apex representative body of the Sikhs and looks after the welfare and interests of its member and member organisations in Australia.

Smoking is forbidden in Sikh religion, because of its harmful and injurious effects on the health of the people, so you will never see a Sikh man or a woman smoking. And now various scientific studies undertaken by various government agencies and privately sponsored by companies prove that tobacco smoking is a health hazard and responsible for many disabilities and plays a dominant role in the propagation of many incurable diseases, which ultimately lead to miserable deaths, such as lung cancer, stroke, heart diseases, cardiovascular diseases, asthmatic attack, miscarriage etc.

Although tobacco smoking is banned in most of the work places but it is often seen that people do smoke outside their offices on the streets and there by put the health of the other people, who happened to be around, at risk because they inhale the puffed out smoke by the smokers. This passive or involuntary smoking is more dangerous and harmful than smoking itself as the smoke exhaled by the smoker contains germs of the contagious lung diseases of the smoker. The used live cigarette butts often seen thrown around are fire hazard and they litter the place.

Tobacco smoking, whether indoor or out door, is also a major source of air pollution and health hazard and Sikh Council is of the view that people have the right to protect themselves from smoke inhalation and submits that smoking should be banned in all public places, parks, hotels, bar and restaurants, public transport and at least 20 metres from any public or private building.

Yours sincerely



Bawa Singh Jagdev
Secretary Tel: 96619960 bawaj@optusnet.com.au