

Submission

No 39

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

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Position: CEO
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Theme:

Summary



19 April 2006

Mr Richard Torbay MP
Chair
Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Torbay

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to provide a written statement to the Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking.

Clubs recognise the health effects of environmental tobacco smoke and their obligation to minimise exposure to both patrons and workers. It is for this reason ClubsNSW worked actively with the NSW Government to achieve a realistic policy outcome.

The NSW Government is to be congratulated on the consultative approach which was taken with all stakeholders, including industry, unions, the Department of Health and acknowledged health experts, when considering this issue and deciding upon the final approach to banning indoor smoking which takes effect from 2 July 2007.

As you would be aware, under the direction of the Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), ClubsNSW worked cooperatively with the NSW Government through the Smoking Joint Working Group, to achieve a phasing out of smoking in licensed premises to protect the health of workers and non-smoking patrons. ClubsNSW publicly supported the NSW Government's announcement of the smoking bans in October 2004.

The implementation of a 'phasing in' process of smoking restrictions has enabled not only registered clubs but all licensed premises, to more effectively implement the new smoking restrictions and to successfully educate patrons of the changes to achieve what will be major cultural change.

The recently released Smoke-free Environment Amendment (Enclosed Places) Regulation 2006 provides the opportunity for clubs and other venues to offer secure and comfortable outdoor areas for both smoking and non-smoking patrons. It will ensure that smoking members are not forced 'onto the street' to have a cigarette.

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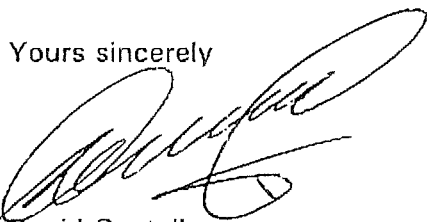
This would have been the worst possible outcome. Issues of patron safety, comfort, orderly behaviour and licensing requirements with respect to entry into clubs are among the considerations which have been documented by ClubsNSW, leading to the conclusion that suitable outdoor areas within the confines of the footprint of the licensed premise would be a sensible outcome.

Basically, the situation to be avoided is where patrons who wish to smoke are forced to leave the club and either smoke on the footpath or go home where they can smoke, gamble online and drink in a totally unsupervised environment.

The definition contained in the Enclosed Places Regulation was supported by both ClubsNSW and the Australian Hotels Association as an outcome that would give venues practical options to cater for their smoking patrons in a broad range of climatic conditions.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement. ClubsNSW looks forward to participating in the Committee's public hearings on 5 May 2006.

Yours sincerely



David Costello
Chief Executive Officer