

Consultation on the Queensland Parliament Health and Ambulance Services Committee consultation on the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015*: APNA submission

28 August 2015

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to consultation on the Queensland Parliament Health and Ambulance Services Committee consultation on the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015* (the Bill). We are providing this submission on behalf of our membership, Australian primary health care nurses.

APNA Submission

Reducing tobacco use is a major Australian health priority and APNA strongly supports the stated objective of the Bill, which is to decrease the incidence of smoking in Queensland.

APNA notes the Bill proposes to:

- ban smoking within 5m of all State Government buildings;
- ban smoking at all transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls;
- ban smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks; and
- ban the sale of cigarettes at 'pop-up' sales venues.

APNA supports the above proposals, which will bring Queensland into alignment with other jurisdictions in Australia.

APNA recognises that, despite an overall reduction in smoking rates in Australia, smoking remains a significant cause of preventable disease and death in the Australian population. APNA supports any measures aimed at reducing the incidence of smoking, thereby leading to improved population health outcomes.

APNA understands that while smoking rates for the majority of the population have fallen, this reduction is less evident in certain population groups. This is particularly the case for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and those people with mental health conditions.

Tobacco smoking is linked to a wide range of chronic and complex health conditions, and primary health care nurses (working as part of multidisciplinary teams) have a key role in treating and managing chronic and complex disease. The work undertaken by these nurses is critical in ensuring the burden of chronic disease is minimised for individuals, communities and the Australian economy. Smoking cessation is an integral component of the work primary health care nurses do to prevent illness and promote optimum health.

About APNA

Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) is the peak professional body for nurses working in primary health care. APNA champions the role of primary health care nurses; to advance professional recognition, ensure workforce sustainability, nurture leadership in health, and optimise the role of nurses in patient-centred care.

APNA is bold, vibrant and future-focused. We reflect the views of our membership and the broader profession by bringing together nurses from across Australia to represent, advocate, promote and celebrate the achievements of nurses in primary health care.

Nurses in primary health care contribute to a healthy Australia through innovative, informed and dynamic care.

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