



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

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RACP backs Tasmanian tobacco ban

The Royal Australian College of Physicians today backed the introduction of a controversial bill to the Tasmanian Parliament, calling for a ban on the sale of tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2000.

The introduction of the Public Health Amendment (Tobacco-Free Generation) Bill 2014 will help dispel the myth about smoking being a rite-of-passage among our youth said President of RACP, Professor Nicholas Talley.

“We know that smoking kills and that there are no safe cigarettes, but a tobacco-free generation would be the real trump card in the battle against smoking.

“We applaud Tasmania for considering this innovative approach to reduce the suffering and the debilitating illnesses caused by smoking,” he said.

Smoking remains the largest single cause of death and disease in Australia.

“The RACP is steadfast in its support of interventions that prevent smoking uptake in young people and its deadly impacts for generations to come,” Professor Talley said.

He cautions that this type of legislation has not been introduced in any other jurisdiction, so it must be monitored closely.

“If proven to reduce smoking uptake among Tasmania’s youth, there is no reason why all Australians shouldn’t be able to enjoy the benefits of a tobacco-free life.

“Anything that deters the next generation from taking up smoking needs to be considered as a life-saving change,” Professor Talley said.

Ends

Media contact: Ryan Lipman ph: (+61) 9256 9650 ryan.lipman@racp.edu.au

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,600 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,000 Trainee members across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 32 medical specialties including paediatrics & child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology and public health medicine, occupational & environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients. www.racp.edu.au