

Preventing further Deaths from Tobacco - Harnessing the Taxation System to save Australians from the Biggest Killer in the World today

Over three million Australians smoke tobacco, the world's deadliest product.

In regard to tobacco, the product which continues to kill more Australians than any other single product, and in regard to the fact that all tobacco-related deaths are entirely preventable, the Non-Smokers' Movement of Australia Inc. demands that the Taxation System be used to prevent further death and damage from tobacco.

Tobacco revenues should not be linked to sales but to a highly regulated licensing system where smokers should only be able to purchase tobacco on the basis of a purchased photo-licence, renewable at six or twelve-month intervals, and which must be produced to enable purchase. Retailers must also be licensed, and must maintain registers of all sales. The cost of licenses should increase regularly, to discourage smokers from continuing to purchase them. Breaches of regulations, e.g. selling to minors, must be heavily penalised.

Interim taxation measures should be undertaken immediately, dramatically increasing tobacco excises to the extent that smoking rates fall quickly.

Revenue raised through licenses/excises must be allocated not towards general revenue but towards the following:-

- a. Protecting non-smokers from the poisons in second-hand tobacco smoke. Children, disabled and frail-aged people are especially vulnerable and must be protected, in all public areas and in vehicles and in the home. Secondhand smoke kills and adversely aggravates many diseases and conditions.
- b. Preventing further uptake of smoking, especially by young people.
- c. Testing and promoting all effective quitting therapies (including non-drug therapies), at little or no cost to the smoker.
- d. Taking legal action against the tobacco industry and recovering damages for its part in knowingly destroying thousands of Australians' lives.
- e. Preventing smuggling and blackmarket activities regarding tobacco products.

Our Taxation System can, and has in the past, been used to reduce damage from deadly products.

Tobacco has no part in Australia's future.

Smoking kills. Secondhand tobacco smoke kills. Every cigarette is doing you harm.

No level of government in Australia can deny these facts, and our Taxation System must be rigorously used to protect the lives and future for all Australians.