



MEDIA ADVISORY

16 December 2003

What

The release of the latest survey of youth smoking rates in Tasmania.

What it is:

- The triennial Australian Secondary Schools Alcohol & Drug Survey (ASSAD), conducted in 2002. Release of the Smoking Behaviours Component of that Survey.
- The Survey covered 1,796 students in the 12 – 17 year age group, in 28 government, catholic and independent schools across the state.
- The aim of the Survey has been to provide up-to-date estimates of the prevalence of smoking among secondary school students.
- The report examines both short-term changes in cigarette consumption between the last survey in 1999 and 2002 and provides information on the long term changes over the period between 1984 and 2002.
- The Cancer Council Tasmania has conducted surveys to determine the smoking behaviours of Tasmanian secondary students every three years since 1984.
- The report has both encouraging and concerning news regarding changes in the patterns of smoking behaviour amongst 12-17 students in Tasmania.
- The report details the smoking habits of students from 12 to 17 years old, showing:-
 - the number of students who have ever tried smoking
 - the number of students who have never tried smoking
 - the number of students who have smoked more than 100 cigarettes
 - the number of students who have smoked in the past year
 - the number of students who have smoked in the past month
 - the proportion of students who are classified as 'current smokers (have smoked in the last week)
 - the proportion of students who are committed smokers, that is, those who have smoked for three or more days in the last week.

When

The report and its findings will be released on Wednesday 17 December 2003.

Who

CEO of The Cancer Council Tasmania, Lawson Ride will be available for interviews and further comment on Wednesday 17 December 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LAWSON RIDE ON:
TEL: 0418 129 757**