



# MEDIA RELEASE

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The Cancer Council has welcomed today's scheduled third and final reading of Tasmania's new smoke free legislation.

Cancer Council CEO, Lawson Ride, said the new law had been subjected to detailed scrutiny from members in both houses, with the Legislative Council devoting an entire day to consideration of the competing health and economic arguments.

"While it is unfortunate that the Greens, the Liberal Party and six MLCs failed in their efforts to bring the full implementation date forward from January 2006, the fact remains the Government has delivered Australia's best legislation in the area.

"The Cancer Council is ready to work with the Government, AHA, other health groups and the LHMU to better inform licensees and customers of the risks of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) in pubs and clubs.

"There are already compelling legal, health and environmental risks around exposure to ETS and we will be encouraging all proprietors and employers to choose the Smoke free option as soon as possible.

"As well as minimising the risk of litigation, banning smoking in pubs and clubs has tremendous potential to help smokers quit or reduce their tobacco consumption.

" Cancer Council research released earlier this month revealed that 28% of smokers were somewhat or very likely to quit smoking altogether if smoking was banned in pubs, clubs and gambling venues.

A further 43% of smokers reported that it was somewhat or very likely that they would smoke less if smoking was banned in pubs and clubs.

"The evidence is clear that by making bars and clubs smoke free there is a tremendous opportunity to help people quit, or even prevent them from taking up smoking in the first place."

**ends**

For comment please call Lawson Ride 0418 129 757