



## MEDIA RELEASE

2 OCTOBER 2004

### SMOKING BANS

The Cancer Council says immediate implementation of new Smoke free laws banning smoking in pubs and clubs had tremendous potential to help smokers quit or reduce their tobacco consumption.

Council CEO, Lawson Ride, said research released this week by The Cancer Council Victorias revealed that 28% of smokers were somewhat or very likely to quit smoking altogether if smoking is 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 were banned in pubs and clubs.

"These results show that bans will help many smokers, particularly the young, to quit.

"The evidence is clear that by making bars and clubs smokefree 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**



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The Cancer Council Tasmania has strongly supported opposition party calls for the early implementation of Smokefree Areas laws.

Council CEO, Lawson Ride, said the Greens and Liberal Opposition had proven the case for immediate action during Parliamentary debate on the Bill this week by pointing out that up to 5 Tasmanian hospitality workers could lose their lives in the coming year.

“Both parties are in sync with the community and reflect overwhelming public support for an early end to smoking in hospitality venues.

“They argued strongly against any delay in the introduction of these vital public health measures pointing out that a year’s delay could cost the lives of up to 5 Tasmanian hospitality workers.

“Workers have a right to be safe and healthy at work and that employers have an obligation to provide that environment.  
It is unfortunate that hospitality workers are expected to wait another 15 months away at this stage.

He said Legislative Councillors were also well aware of the widespread public concern over the delay and said several MLCs had already indicated their intentions to amend the implementation date to 31 May 2005 (World No Tobacco Day).

“Given the growing volume of scientific evidence, any protracted delay in smokefree workplace laws will leave employers exposed to the risk of expensive litigation and work place injury claims.

“Several hotels and clubs in Tasmania have chosen to go smoke-free in recent months and others are making the change with daylight saving this weekend.

“All those who have gone smoke free are reporting increased profits and a healthier environment for customers and workers. **ends**

**For comment please call Lawson Ride 0418 129 757**