

MEDIA RELEASE



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Tasmanian cancer death six times more likely from tobacco as alcohol

The Cancer Council Tasmania welcomes the Salvation Army's campaign to emphasise the link between alcohol consumption and some cancers.

Cancer Council Tasmania CEO Lawson Ride says his organisation regularly highlights this association in its healthy living and nutrition statements, which the Salvation Army has drawn upon for its campaign.

Mr Ride says there is convincing evidence that alcohol consumption increases the risk of mouth, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, liver and female breast cancer.

"The Cancer Council recommends Tasmanians limit their alcohol consumption to two standard drinks a day for men and one standard drink a day for women, or avoid alcohol altogether," Mr Ride says.

"However, while there is always more to do to emphasise the risk of cancer with alcohol consumption, the greatest urgency in Tasmania is to fight tobacco use," Mr Ride says.

"Unfortunately, smoking in Tasmania is on the rise and tobacco-related cancer kills more than six times as many Tasmanians as alcohol-related cancer," he says.

"According to the latest figures*, between 1997 and 2001 there were 31 new cases of alcohol-related cancers among Tasmanian men and 38 among women. Tragically, of these 69 cases 20 men and 14 women died.

"To put that in perspective though, in the same period there were 290 new smoking-related cancers from which 222 Tasmanians died."

"Tobacco products are always a severe and all too often fatal health hazard."

* *Cancer in Australia 2001* - www.aihw.gov.au/publications/can/ca01/ca01-c03.pdf

For comment please call Lawson Ride on 0418 129 757

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Fast facts:

Alcohol-related cancers

Oropharynx

Oesophagus

Liver

Larynx

Female breast cancer

Smoking-related cancers

Oropharynx

Oesophagus

Stomach

Anus

Pancreas

Larynx

Lung

Uterus

Cervix

Vulva

Penis

Bladder

Renal parenchyma

Renal pelvis