

**For comment please call respiratory physician Assoc Prof Richard Wood-Baker on 0438 213 113, the Australian Medical Association's Prof Haydn Walters on 0419 770 086 or Asthma Foundation CEO Cathy Beswick on 0407 869 767**

Ends

SmokeFree Tasmania members:

*Epilepsy Action, QUIT, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Australian Lung Foundation, Thoracic Society, Pharmaceutical Society, Asthma Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis, Public Health Association, Diabetes Association, Kidney Foundation, Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union; The Cancer Council Tasmania; Heart Foundation; Menzies Research Institute and Australian Medical Association.*



# SmokeFree

16 October 2006

## Ban smoking in cars carrying kids

SmokeFree Tasmania says new US research shows it is well past time to ban smoking in cars carrying kids.

New research from the Harvard School of Public Health shows damaging levels of respirable suspended particles (RSP) and carbon monoxide present after only one cigarette is smoked in a car.

In an article published this week in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Drs Vaughan Rees and Greg Connolly say secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant that produces an alarming amount of RSP in a car after a single cigarette is smoked for just five minutes.

SmokeFree Tasmania spokesperson Associate Professor Richard Wood-Baker says the study proves it is totally unacceptable to expose children to tobacco smoke in cars and that prolonged or repeated exposure is unsafe for kids.

“This study confirms what is obvious even to the casual observer: smoking in cars carrying children is likely to cause severe damage to their health,” Assoc Prof Wood-Baker says.

Under legislation expected later this year in South Australia, motorists will pay on-the-spot fines of \$75 if caught smoking in a car with children under the age of 16.

Assoc Prof Wood-Baker says the Tasmanian government must follow suit.

“The Tasmanian government published a discussion paper on the issue some months ago and comments closed in July. Now the talking is done, it is time for action.”

SmokeFree Tasmania members, including the Australian Medical Association, the Asthma Foundation and the Cancer Council Tasmania, all support the call for tough and urgent state government action to ban smoking in cars carrying children.