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**QUEENSLAND LEADS NATION IN TOBACCO CONTROL
 EMBARGOED UNTIL 6PM FRIDAY 26 MAY**

**AMA /ACOSH NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL SCOREBOARD
 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
 AMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017 #amanatcon**

Queensland has topped the *AMA/ACOSH National Tobacco Control Scoreboard 2017* as the Government making the most progress on combating smoking over the past 12 months.

Queensland narrowly pipped New South Wales for the Achievement Award, with serial offender the Northern Territory winning the *Dirty Ashtray Award* for putting in the least effort.

Ahead of World No Tobacco Day on 31 May, AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, announced the results today at the AMA National Conference 2017 in Melbourne.

Judges from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) allocate points to each State and Territory in various categories, including legislation, to track how effective government has been at combating smoking in the previous 12 months.

“Disappointingly, no jurisdiction scored an A this year, suggesting that complacency has set in,” Dr Gannon said.

“Research shows that smoking is likely to cause the death of two-thirds of current Australian smokers. This means that 1.8 million Australians now alive will die because they smoked.

“It is imperative that Governments avoid complacency, keep up with tobacco industry tactics, and continue to implement strong, evidence-based tobacco control measures.”

The judges praised the Queensland Government for introducing smoke-free legislation in public areas, including public transport waiting areas, major sports and events facilities, and outdoor pedestrian malls, and for divesting from tobacco companies.

However, they called on all governments to run major media campaigns to tackle smoking, and to take further action to protect public health policy from tobacco industry interference.

26 May 2017

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