

Australian Medical Association Limited
ABN 37 008 426 793

42 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT 2600: PO Box 6090, Kingston ACT 2604
 Telephone: (02) 6270 5400 Facsimile (02) 6270 5499
 Website : <http://www.ama.com.au/>



National Tobacco Control Scoreboard 2016

AMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016 (Twitter: #amanc16)

In the 22nd year of the Dirty Ashtray award, it is appropriate to reflect on the overall state of tobacco control around Australia’s jurisdictions.

While Australia is making good progress overall in tobacco control, there can be no room for complacency. Two thirds of Australian smokers are likely to die because they smoked, and smoking will cause the deaths of 1.8 million smokers now alive.

This is the time for governments to step up action, not to sit back and risk the tide rolling back. There is special cause for concern that both nationally and in some jurisdictions funding for tobacco control public education – a crucial component of the comprehensive programs recommended by health authorities – has been cut back, or is missing in action.

Priority actions recommended for all governments for this year include:

- Consistent funding at evidence based levels for strong public education programs
- Robust legislation and policy to eradicate the interference of the tobacco industry in public health policy in line with Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)
- Ban all remaining avenues for tobacco promotion
- Action to ensure further protection for all from the harms of passive smoking
- Long term commitment to action and funding to address smoking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other populations with high smoking rates

RESULTS

The Northern Territory government is the clear winner of the ‘**Dirty Ashtray**’ Award, with an E grading. It seems that reducing smoking and its harms is now not a priority for the Northern Territory government.

The Victorian government is the runner up for the Dirty Ashtray and is designated the “**Laggard State**”. This is a regrettable contrast with the days when Victorian governments were seen as world leaders in tobacco control.

While there was no “A” rating, the Australian Government wins the ‘**Achievement Award**’ in recognition of strong and continuing commitment to tobacco control with support for plain packaging legislation and world-leading fiscal policies. All sides of politics deserve credit for their continuing strong tobacco policies.

Grade B (70 – 79 points)**Best of Grade B****Australian Government****PRAISE**

Strong and continuing bi-partisan commitment to tobacco control with support for plain packaging legislation, including legal defence against tobacco industry opposition in international disputes and providing exemplar role and guidance to other countries.

World-leading fiscal policies, with a further four annual 12.5 per cent increases in tobacco excise and duty free cigarette allowance to be cut to 25.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Reintroduce the national media campaign (not funded since 2012); fund at evidence-base levels to ensure impact.

Ensure continuing support for disadvantaged groups; return support for Indigenous programs to previous levels.

Update the Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act (TAPA) to keep up with developments in tobacco industry promotion and alternative nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems.

Rest of Grade B (70 – 79) – alphabetical order**Australian Capital Territory****PRAISE**

Effective legislation to protect the public from second-hand smoke with comprehensive bans in enclosed public places and work places, including pubs, clubs, restaurants and shopping centres.

The first Australian jurisdiction to divest from the tobacco industry in line with the FCTC Article 5.3.

There are policies in place to limit interactions with the tobacco industry; the Minister for Health does not meet with tobacco companies; consultations undertaken by the ACT on tobacco-related issues are conducted openly and submissions are made available to the community.

Continued tobacco control legislation reviews, updates and enactment, with effective and flexible compliance testing procedures relating to sales to minors updated in 2014.

Correctional facilities are smoke-free with detainees and staff only permitted to smoke in designated outdoor areas.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Funding for strong public education programs.

Remove 'smoking permitted areas' within certain licensed premises.

Expand smoke-free areas in public locations through the Government's Future directions for tobacco reduction in the ACT 2013 -2016.

Update the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration

Implement a comprehensive smoking ban at correctional facilities.

New South Wales**PRAISE**

Public education campaigns continue to be strong and research-based.

Good progress in implementing smoke-free legislation at correctional services.

Commitment to addressing Aboriginal smoking through an effective framework and the implementation of the Aboriginal Quitline Enhancement project.

Effective regulation consistent with the FCTC Article 5.3 guidance on banning tobacco investments across Government and prohibiting tobacco industry political donations.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Return public education campaign expenditure to 2009 equivalent levels, and fund special further programs for high risk population groups.

Eliminate smoking exemptions for casino private gaming areas.

End 'smoking designated premises' at outdoor areas of licensed premises and 25% exemption for enclosed places.

Ban tobacco token operated vending machines.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Queensland

PRAISE:

Commitment to protect public from second-hand smoke with extensions to smoke-free legislation at public venues, including outdoor pedestrian malls, bus and ferry stops, taxi ranks, skate parks, aged care facilities, childcare facilities, public pools, among others.

Robust cessation support through public education and Quitline services.

Targeted cessation support and education programs for Indigenous people.

Effective regulation of e-cigarettes, to be treated in the same way as normal cigarettes

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Prohibit designated outdoor smoking areas at pubs, clubs and casinos.

Ban exemptions for smoking in ‘high roller’ rooms at casinos.

Ban tobacco vending machines in licensed premises and bar areas.

Divest from tobacco investment in accordance to the FCTC Article 5.3.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration

Western Australia

PRAISE

Support for strong public education programs and comprehensive cessation support

Good progress addressing Indigenous smoking.

Strong stance on all e-cigarettes, with sales not permitted under existing legislation.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Fulfil public pre-election commitments in relation to: stronger point of sale legislation; stronger enforcement of sales to minors legislation; ban all tobacco lobbying and public relations; increase support to address smoking in disadvantaged communities and groups.

Implement reviews of the Tobacco Products Control Act WA that are required every four years.

Implement a comprehensive smoking ban at correctional facilities.

Eliminate smoking exemptions at ‘beer gardens’ in licensed premises and for Casino ‘high-roller’ rooms.

Ban product display by specialist tobacconists.

Grade C (60-69 points)

South Australia

PRAISE

Commitment to cessation support

Programs addressing smoking among high priority communities and groups, including programs targeting blue collar workers and regional areas.

SA stopped tobacco investments in their Funds SA.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Further funding for public education programs.

Ban political donations from tobacco industry to protect public health policy from tobacco industry interference in line with FCTC Article 5.3.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration

Grade D (50-59 points) – alphabetical order

Tasmania

PRAISE

Strong leadership and commitment to protecting the public from second-hand smoke with comprehensive smoke-free legislation in enclosed public places and work places.

Good progress in implementing comprehensive smoke-free legislation at correctional facilities.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Invest in public education programs.

Increase funding to address Indigenous smoking and other high priority communities and groups.

Prohibit tobacco retailer incentives.

Close the loophole permitting vending machines in restricted areas.

Stronger enforcement of tobacco control legislation, including penalties for breaches involving sales to minors.

As required by FCTC Article 5.3, end investment of taxpayers' resources and superannuation funds in tobacco companies, and ban all political donations from the tobacco industry.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration

Victoria

The Victorian government is the runner up for the Dirty Ashtray and is designated the "**Laggard State**".

PRAISE

Good progress in implementing comprehensive smoke-free legislation at correctional facilities.

Commitment to address Indigenous smoking, and smoking in other high risk communities and groups.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Increase funding to evidence based levels for strong public education programs.

Ban smoking in all alfresco drinking areas and licensed premises (not just dining areas).

Include waterpipe tobacco in the definition of tobacco products. Victoria is the only state where waterpipe tobacco use and sale is unregulated.

Restrict tobacco marketing by eliminating exemptions for specialist tobacconists; ban multi-pack discounts and retailer incentives; and prohibit vending machines in licensed premises.

Eliminate the smoking exemption at 'high-roller' rooms at the casino.

Strengthen prohibition of sales to minors, monitoring and compliance.

Ban all political donations from the tobacco industry in line with FCTC Article 5.3.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Grade E (<50 points)

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory government is the clear winner of the '**Dirty Ashtray**' Award, with an E grading. It seems that reducing smoking and its harms is now not a priority for the Northern Territory government.

PRAISE

The first jurisdiction to implement a comprehensive smoking ban at corrective services.

ACTION NEEDED/CONCERNS

Funding for strong public education programs, with special focus on Indigenous smoking and other high risk communities and groups.

Ban smoking at pubs, clubs and dining areas and eliminate exemption for ‘high-roller’ rooms at casinos.

Ban tobacco vending machines available to the public and prohibit cigarette sales at mobile food vans.

Ensure commitment to limit interactions with the tobacco industry and ban all political donations in line with FCTC Article 5.3.

Ban all e-cigarette sale, promotion and marketing in the absence of any approvals by Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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CONTACT: John Flannery 02 6270 5477 / 0419 494 761
 Kirsty Waterford 02 6270 5464 / 0427 209 753

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