

Tobacco

FACTS

for pubs and clubs

PASSIVE SMOKING KILLS

Mounting call for smokefree pubs & clubs



Passive smokers share the poison

▲ Poster from WA "Make Smoking History" campaign, 2003

Pubs, clubs and governments are being urged to end the ten-year delay in protecting workers and patrons, and create a "level playing field" by legislating for smokefree workplaces – including pubs, clubs and gambling rooms.

The call follows the release of new research conservatively estimating that passive tobacco smoke is now killing at least 220 Australians a year – and costing the nation \$47m in hospital care alone.

Collins DJ and Lapsley HM, "Counting the cost" National Drug Strategy 2003 at www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/publicat/document/mono49.pdf

PUBLIC SUPPORTS BANS (see over)

Smoke bans should be part of responsible gaming policy

Problem gambling treatment and referral services are overwhelmingly backing the call for smokefree gambling venues, arguing that they must be part of any responsible gaming policy.

See www.ashaust.org.au/SF'03/releases/030701.htm

Problem gambling services and health groups are concerned about research showing that:

- A larger percentage of gamblers smoke than do the general public; when gamblers smoke while gambling, their nicotine intake rises. *Break Even Gambling Rehabilitation Service, Relationships Australia, submitted to SA Independent Gambling Authority, 2002.*
- Pokie players who smoke are much more likely to get into financial hardship. *National Institute of Economics and Industry Research, "Smokers who gamble on the road to financial hardship", Melbourne 2003.*

Big Tobacco uses "healthy" consultancy to frustrate clean air workplaces

An indoor air quality consultancy, Healthy Buildings International (HBI), partly set up by tobacco industry funds, has since played a high profile part in pushing ventilation-based options as an "alternative" to smoke-free workplaces. Says a soon-published study on the relationship: "HBI provided Philip Morris with confidential public submissions to an Australian review of the standard on ventilation and acted as an undeclared cipher into the review for Philip Morris' concerns."

Chapman, S and Penman, A, "Can't stop the boy: Philip Morris' use of Healthy Buildings International to prevent workplace smoking bans in Australia" 2003 (unpub, Sydney University School of Public Health).

VENTILATION IS NO SOLUTION Says the World Health Organisation: "Smoking bans remain the only viable control measure to ensure that (hospitality) workers and patrons... are protected from exposure to the toxic wastes from tobacco consumption."

Sick of 2nd hand smoke? TAKE ACTION!

- Find out what's happening in your state/territory
- Write a letter to a Minister or MP
- Get in touch with a union
- Take part in an action
- Visit our website: www.ashaust.org.au/SF'03



Published by the SmokeFree '03 coalition:

Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Workers' Union; Musicians' Union of Australia; Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance; Australian Council of Trade Unions; Action on Smoking and Health Australia; The Cancer Council of Australia; National Heart Foundation of Australia; Australian Council on Smoking and Health; Non-Smokers' Movement of Australia.

August 2003

TAKING THE LEAD

"We went smokefree in May 2001. Our membership is up almost 500%, business has boomed and our staff are much happier." Phil Gins, Manager, Maroochyodre Swan Bowls Club, Qld

"Since we reopened indoor-smokefree in December '02, we've done a roaring trade. And the staff appreciate the work environment." Gerard Dore, Licensee, Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo, Sydney

REVIEW: Bans don't hurt pub and club trade

A worldwide review has confirmed that no-smoking policies do no harm to hospitality businesses – and may even improve them. The review of 98 studies found that all credible, objective studies from Australia and abroad showed no economic harm from smoke bans; some showed positive benefit.

Scollo M et al, "Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke free policies on the hospitality industry", *Tobacco Control* 2003; 12:13-20. Study at <http://press.psprings.co.uk/tc/march/tc022154.pdf>

SA dining study: bans have no impact. Wakefield M et al, "The effect of a smoke-free law on restaurant business in SA" in *ANZJPH*, August 2002. Abstract at www.phaa.net.au.

From the horse's mouth

"I don't think it [a smoking ban] will threaten patronage because if the legislation is across the board in all hotels, clubs and pubs, people will still have to socialise somewhere."

David Charles, Chief Executive, AHA, NSW Branch, in *Financial Review* 13/6/97

REPORT: Big Tobacco manipulates hospitality to stay smoky

Tobacco industry documents reveal their strategy of scaring proprietors and workers with the "risk" of lost business. A worldwide study says:

"Through the myth of lost profits, the tobacco industry has fooled the hospitality industry into embracing expensive ventilation equipment, while in reality 100% smoke-free laws have been shown to have no effect on business revenues, or even to improve them."

Dearlove, J et al, "Tobacco industry manipulation of the hospitality industry to maintain smoking in public places," *Tobacco Control* 2002; 11:94-104.

For more on tobacco manipulation, see www.TobaccoScam.ucsf.edu.

Tobacco Facts for pubs and clubs

Review: Smokefree support surges; total ban "overdue"

A new review of more than 40 Australian studies on community and staff attitudes to smoke bans in bars and gaming rooms shows:

- Clear majority support (52-68%) for total smoke bans in bars.
- Clear majority support (64-76%) in gaming areas.
- Support for total bans in licensed premises has risen by a "remarkable" 20% in the last decade.
- Support increased significantly after the passive smoking award in the Sharp case (below right).

The authors conclude that total bans are "overdue" and that "politicians can no longer argue more time for discussion is needed." They urge state and territory governments to legislate "immediately" and to "conduct an information campaign to correct misperceptions being fostered by the tobacco industry which are held by many hospitality staff and a minority of the public."

* Walsh, RA and Tzelepis, F (Cancer Council NSW), "Support for smoking restrictions in bars and gaming areas: review of Australian studies" in *Australian and NZ Journal of Public Health*, June 2003.

Other studies:

- Approval of smokefree bar laws in California rose from 1998-2000 (proprietors say even if the law were reversed, they'd stay smokefree).
- An Auspoll survey in 2000 commissioned by Philip Morris found that 89% of people would go more often, or just as often, if bars were smokefree.

BAR WORKERS: Why aren't we protected?

"I don't feel very well when I'm working and people are smoking. I feel like I'm going to be sick... it's not the most ideal set of working conditions at all."

Bar worker, gambling venue, Perth

"People smoking near you affects your singing – you take big gulps of smoky air. So it's a pleasure to work in smokefree rooms – and they seem to do great business as well." Pub & club singer, Sydney

Benefits for young people

"Social smoking" in bars makes it harder for young Australians to quit, says a new study. Smokefree venues would improve the health of young people.

Trotter, I et al, "Socially cued smoking in bars, nightclubs and gaming venues: A case for introducing smoke-free policies", *Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Victoria, 2002.*

SF'03 PUNTS FOR A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD



SmokeFree '03 banners at Aussie Stadium, Sydney, February 2003.

Bar worker wins \$466,000 payout over passive smoking injury

Non-smoking ex-bar worker Marlene Sharp was recently awarded \$466,000 damages by the NSW Supreme Court in *Sharp v Port Kembla RSL Club*. She developed throat cancer after working for several years in a smoky club and hotel. Lawyers predict more passive smoking cases under OH&S laws, common law, workers comp and disability discrimination. *Summary of successful legal actions at www.cancercouncil.com.au/html/prevention/smoking_tobacco/downloads/whensmoke_appendixA.pdf*



HOW TO GO SMOKEFREE

▶ Sample workplace policy at www.nswcc.org.au/editorial.asp?pageid=386

Benefits include: reduced litigation, fire and health risks; lower cleaning costs & insurance premiums.

Passive smoke is not a "comfort" issue – it's a health issue.

AUSTRALIA LAGS IN WORLDWIDE TREND

Australia is trailing several countries in the race for smokefree workplaces. Norway and Ireland will be first, their new laws coming into effect in 2004. Most recently, the Philippines has enacted a new law to ban smoking in all workplaces including bars and restaurants. In the US, five states and more than 100 cities and towns have passed smokefree laws – with more set to follow. See www.ashaust.org.au/SF'03/news.htm

TOXINS IN TOBACCO SMOKE

Hydrogen cyanide, ammonia, carbon monoxide, acrolein and formaldehyde are just a few of the toxins in tobacco smoke inhaled by staff and patrons. Smokers' lungs are particularly sensitive to cancer-causing chemicals, as are people with breathing disabilities including asthmatics; people with other respiratory and heart conditions; diabetics; pregnant women; and cancer survivors.

Collateral health damage?



Wheezing, frequent coughing, sore eyes and throats are just some of the symptoms over a third of hospitality workers are suffering from, according to research co-authored by international passive smoking expert Prof. Alistair Woodward. The Cancer Council Victoria study (2002) of LHMU members found 17% faced smoke for more than 7.5 hrs a day; another 18% were exposed for part of the day.

This study backs up international research on passive harm to hospitality workers including

*Bates, MN et al, "Exposure of hospitality workers to environmental tobacco smoke" in *Tobacco Control* June 2002: 11:125-129.*

SMOKY WORKPLACES: WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Occupational Health & Safety laws throughout Australia make it clear: employers have a legal responsibility to provide a safe, healthy workplace. A smoky workplace is not safe or healthy.



More at the SmokeFree '03 website: www.ashaust.org.au/SF'03
Phone: (02) 9334 1823