



# The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **GROUND BREAKING ANTI-SMOKING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED ON WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, will today introduce sweeping new anti-smoking legislation into the NSW Parliament.

The *NSW Tobacco Strategy* - one of the most progressive tobacco reforms ever seen in Australia – will see smoking banned in playgrounds, public sports grounds, swimming pools, public transport stops and the entrances to public buildings.

From 2015 the ban on smoking will be extended to all commercial outdoor dining areas.

Mrs Skinner said the legislation is the cornerstone of the NSW Government's commitment to keeping people healthy and out of hospital.

She said the government is prepared to put strong measures in place in order to reduce the serious harm that smoking imposes on the community.

"Smoking-related illness accounts for around 5200 deaths and 44,000 hospitalisations per year in NSW and costs around \$8 billion each year," Mrs Skinner said.

The O'Farrell Government is leading the way in tobacco control measures and the new legislation will send a further message to the community about the dangers of smoking.

"Reducing the harm that tobacco inflicts on our community is a key priority for the NSW Government," Mrs Skinner said.

"The distress and cost that smoking inflicts on families, and the burden this imposes on the health system, is simply unacceptable."

Mrs Skinner said the key focus of the strategy is reducing smoking rates in disadvantaged populations such as Aboriginal communities and mental health consumers, where high smoking rates are a serious concern.

Local Health Districts will also be given greater powers to enforce no smoking policies at NSW Health facilities, she said.

"The NSW Government will lead an education campaign to inform the community, businesses and affected agencies about the changes," Mrs Skinner said.

"I look forward to maintaining our strong stance on anti-smoking laws as we work to reduce the burden on the NSW health system."