



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT PASSES ANTI-SMOKING LEGISLATION

The NSW Government's ground breaking anti-smoking legislation tonight passed through the Legislative Council without amendment.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, said she was jubilant about the legislation clearing the Upper House unchanged.

'This is a great win for the people of this state and reinforces the NSW Government's strong stance on anti-smoking laws,' Mrs Skinner said.

'Smoking-related illness accounts for around 5200 deaths and 44,000 hospitalisations per year in NSW and costs about \$8 billion annually.

'The distress that smoking inflicts on families, and the burden this imposes on the health system, is simply unacceptable,' the Minister added.

The *NSW Tobacco Strategy* is one of the most progressive tobacco reforms ever seen in Australia.

It 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.

'The O'Farrell Government is leading the way in tobacco control measures and the passing of this new legislation sends a further message to the community about the dangers of smoking,' Mrs Skinner said.

A key focus of the strategy is reducing smoking rates in disadvantaged populations, where high smoking rates are a particular concern.

Mrs Skinner said now that the legislation has passed, the NSW Government will lead an education campaign to inform the community and businesses about the changes.

'Smoking is a scourge which destroys the health of those in its grip and those unfortunate enough to be nearby when they light up.

'I congratulate my colleagues who have wholeheartedly supported this important legislation.'