

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Cancer Australia

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023, and the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products)(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023

2 November 2023

PDR Number: IQ23-000126

Tobacco use as a contributing factor in cancer/New Zealand Cancer Control

Spoken

Hansard page number: pages 15-16.

Senator: Senator Louise Pratt

Questions:

1. Which cancers have tobacco use as a contributing factor?
2. Could you give us an overview of the New Zealand reform? Has that actually started in New Zealand, in terms of that cohort aging into the ban?

Answer:

1. Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in Australia and contributes to 22% of the total burden from cancers.¹Tobacco smoking is believed to be responsible for 10% of all cancers in Australian males and 16% of all cancers in Australian females.²About 90% of lung cancer in Australian men and 65% of lung cancer in Australian women is estimated to be a result of tobacco smoking.³

¹Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) Alcohol, tobacco & other drugs in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 03 November 2023.

² Pandeya N, Wilson LF, Bain CJ, Martin KL, Webb PM, Whiteman DC. Cancers in Australia in 2010 attributable to tobacco smoke. Aust N Z J Public Health. 2015 Oct;39(5):464-70. doi: 10.1111/1753-6405.12446. PMID: 26437733; PMCID: PMC4606760.

³ Cancer Australia. Lifestyle risk factors and the primary prevention of cancer. Cancer Australia, Canberra, 2015

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) identified that tobacco smoking causes cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, nasal cavity and accessory sinuses, larynx, oesophagus, stomach, bowel, liver, lung, pancreas, kidney, ureter, bladder, cervix and ovary and myeloid leukaemia and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer³ and prostate cancer⁴.

IARC also concluded that second-hand smoke causes lung cancer.² In addition, there is sufficient evidence to show that parental smoking (of mother and/or father during both the preconception period and pregnancy) causes hepatoblastoma, a rare embryonic cancer.²

2. New Zealand's *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Act* came into force on 1 January 2023 and makes three key changes to the Act^{5,6}:

- From 1 July 2024, decreasing the numbers of retailers able to sell smoked tobacco products
- From 1 April 2025, reducing the amount of nicotine that is allowed in smoked tobacco products
- From 1 January 2027, prohibits the sale of smoked tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2021. Cancer in Australia 2021. Cancer series no. 133. Cat. no. CAN 144. Canberra: AIHW

⁵ New Zealand plans to outlaw tobacco sales to citizens born after 2008. *BMJ* 2021; 375 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n3057> (Published 10 December 2021)

⁶ www.smokefree.org.nz/smokefree-environments/legislation