



12 July 2012

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
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Comments from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH)

The Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Customs Amendment (Smuggled Tobacco) Bill 2012.

We wish to acknowledge the outstanding leadership shown by the Australian Government and the Department of Health and Ageing, with implementation of a comprehensive program of action that has been recognised internationally, and includes world-leading legislation to mandate plain packaging of cigarettes packaging from 1 December 2012.

Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia, killing more than 15,000 Australians every year and with costs to the community estimated at costing more than \$30 billion annually. There is no room for complacency.

The Customs Amendment (Smuggled Tobacco) Bill 2012 (the Bill) is another clear indication of the Government's commitment to a comprehensive approach.

ACOSH supports the Bill and welcomes the significant additional deterrent of a maximum term of ten years' imprisonment – not only for the smuggler, but for the person conveying or possessing tobacco known to be smuggled.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Mike Daube
President, ACOSH