

MEDIA RELEASE

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Embargoed 9:00am 19 July**First State Super to exclude tobacco from all investment portfolio funds**

First State Super, one of Australia's largest super funds, announced that it has excluded investments in all companies involved in the manufacture of cigarettes and other tobacco products from its entire investment portfolio of twelve different investment options.

The decision extends First State Super's exclusion of tobacco-related investments from the socially responsible options that health members have been able to select for the past eight years.

The CEO of First State Super, Mr. Michael Dwyer AM, said: "The Trustee Board decided to extend the exclusion of tobacco investments across all our portfolios following strong feedback from health employers and those working in health services who represent 40% of our total membership of 770,000 members."

In reaching its decision the Trustee Board had been particularly mindful of its many members who work in the health sector especially members from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. The Board was also cognisant of significant national and state health policies directed to minimising tobacco consumption.

"Our decision reflects both the strong views expressed by our employers and members and our support for Government initiatives to minimise tobacco consumption." Mr. Dwyer said.

Cancer clinicians and researchers from Peter Mac have welcomed First State Super's announcement. Dr Bronwyn King, Radiation Oncologist at Peter Mac said: "On behalf of my colleagues and our patients, I applaud First State Super for breaking the mould with this decision."

Commenting further on the decision, Mr. Dwyer said: "Governments are introducing initiatives to dissuade consumers from purchasing tobacco products that send a clear message regarding the tobacco industry and the consumption of tobacco products i.e. plain packaging, no advertising, restrictions on smoking in public areas etc.

"While our clear priority to First State Super members is to pursue an investment strategy and returns that are consistent with the objectives of the Fund, an extensive review of each of our funds investment strategies shows that excluding these investments will not compromise returns.

"Our analysis shows there will be inconsequential financial impact from this decision for members' investment returns. It adds to the decision that the exclusion of direct tobacco investments is unquestionably the right thing to do," Mr. Dwyer said.

First State Super's socially responsible investment options will continue to be available to members who wish to have their investments focused on a range of investments to screen out other sectors and to provide members with further choice for their investments.

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Michael Dwyer, CEO, First State Super will be available for interview and comment

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First State Super is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit superannuation funds with over \$33bn in funds under management. In 2011 First State Super successfully merged with Health Super and has over 770,000 members. For further information visit www.firststatesuper.com.au