

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000819

OUTCOME: 1- Population Health

Topic: Tobacco Control

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

How does Australia compare to other countries in terms of tax on tobacco products? If possible can this information be provided in a table showing comparative rates.

Answer:

As at mid-2014, Australia's total taxes applied to cigarettes were sixth highest among the 106 countries who reported average cigarette taxes and prices to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Average total taxes applied to a pack of 20 cigarettes as at 31 July 2014

Rank	Country	Average total taxes in international dollars (at purchasing power parity)
1	United Kingdom	9.11
2	Ireland	8.68
3	Singapore	8.15
4	New Zealand	7.96
5	Norway	6.25
6	Australia	6.21
...		
26	Canada	4.43
...		
54	United States	2.61
...		
106	Iran	0.11

Source: WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2015, Appendix IX, figures derived from data in Table 9.5, at www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/2015/appendix_ix/en/

Since this report was published, Australia has had two 12.5 per cent excise increases, as well as biannual increases in excise in line with wage inflation.

Australia has the seventh highest after-tax cigarette prices in the world.¹

¹ WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2015, Appendix IX, Table 9.1, Graph 9.2.0, available at http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/2015/appendix_ix/en. The prices reported are for a pack of 20 of the most sold brand of cigarettes, in international dollars (at purchasing power parity) as at mid-2014.