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TASMANIA SET TO LEAD THE NATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

The Public Health Association of Australia has welcomed the announcement of a range of tobacco control measures as part of the Tasmanian State Budget. The Association's President, Mike Daube, who is also the President of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, praised the new initiatives, which will cost \$2.7 million over four years.

"Tasmania is already a national leader in tobacco legislation. What has been lacking is funding for key activities such as public education. Now the new budget has allocated \$2.7 million for new tobacco control activities including public education and smoking cessation," said Professor Daube.

"This means that Tasmania can now move from the middle of the pack to being a national leader and we can expect to see a decline in smoking rates in Tasmania, as in the rest of the country.

"Health Minister Lara Giddings is to be congratulated for focussing on real prevention and those who have campaigned for many years to achieve this outcome should be commended for their efforts," said Professor Daube.

For further information/comment:

Professor Mike Daube, President, Public Health Association of Australia 0409 933 933
(Perth)