

PHAA calls for all-party support on tobacco and alcohol tax

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) strongly supports increased taxes for both tobacco and alcohol, and has called for all-party support for both measures.

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said,

“We welcome the call by the Liberal Party for an increase in tobacco taxes. This is the single most effective means of reducing smoking, and has strong public support, especially if the funding goes into prevention and treatment.”

“The Preventative Health Taskforce has called for substantial and continuing tobacco tax increases as one its highest priorities, and public health groups have been anticipating that the Government will introduce a tobacco tax to support implementation of the recommendations of the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the Prevention Taskforce.”

“There has not been a tobacco-specific tax increase since 1999. Australia is now one of the lower tobacco-taxing countries in the OECD. A substantial tobacco tax increase would result in a further decline in smoking by both adults and children, reducing Australia’s massive tobacco death toll.”

We also urge all parties to support health-based alcohol policy. The Henry Review is examining volumetric taxation, but passage of the alcopops tax would do much to protect young people from sugary confections that make alcohol attractive to kids and encourage them to get drunk. A consistent approach to increasing tobacco and alcohol taxation, providing realistic funding for prevention programs, would have an enormous impact on the tragic human and social costs of both tobacco and alcohol”.

For further details:

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