Dear Sir/Madam,

Further comment on delegates’ interim decision not to amend the current scheduling of nicotine

We refer to the scheduling delegates’ interim decision not to amend the current scheduling of nicotine, as released on 2 February 2017.

We are aware of and support the approach taken in the submission to you from the Cancer Council Australia. We also strongly support the delegates’ interim determination, and confirm that we share the concerns raised by the Joint Advisory Committee on Chemicals and Medicines Scheduling in its advice to the delegates.

We note further that since the deliberations leading to this determination, there have been further major reports (including from the US Surgeon General) and publications confirming its appropriateness and raising additional concerns about cardiovascular and other harms; impacts on children and young people; potential to trigger relapse among ex-smokers or those attempting to quit; dual use; cessation outcomes; and tobacco industry use of new products for promotional and lobbying purposes.

We believe that it is important to support the expert and evidence-based approach of the TGA, and continue to act in the interests of the safety of the community in general, and of children and young people in particular, while governments and health authorities pursue approaches which have made Australia a world leader in reducing smoking.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Moore AM
CEO: Public Health Association of Australia