



Submission on Smoke-free Environments (Controls and Enforcement) Amendment Bill

January 2011

Submission to:

Parliamentary Select Committee for Smoke Free Environments

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This submission was prepared on behalf of the College of Nurses, Aotearoa (NZ) Inc.

The College is a professional body of New Zealand nurses from all regions and specialties. It provides a voice for the nursing profession and professional commentary on issues which affect nurses, and also the health of the whole community. Its aim is to support excellence in clinical practice, research and education and to work with consumers to influence health policy. The College is committed to the Treaty of Waitangi and the improvement of Maori health. This commitment is reflected in the bicultural structure of the organisation



The College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc congratulates Parliament for their strong support for the Smoke-free Environments (Controls and Enforcement) Amendment Bill. This enabled the Bill to pass through its first hearing for consideration by the Health Select Committee.

The Bill represents a milestone in the drive to rid our nation of the scourge of tobacco, which has inflicted so much damage to all New Zealanders, but especially to Maori peoples. For the first time ever, the hope of a Smokefree Aotearoa, is possible in the near future. This will be possible only if the recommendations in the Bill, are carried through.

For this reason, we urge you to hold fast to these recommendations, particularly:

- The elimination of tobacco displays in retail outlets.
- The instigation of instant fines for breaches of the sale of tobacco.
- The increased regulation of retail outlets for the supply of tobacco.

The College believes that it is vital to fulfill the detail of the programme laid out by the Maori Select Committee's Inquiry on the Tobacco Industry and the Consequences of Tobacco Use for Maori. As well as the recommendations in the current Bill, we urge you to act on the following:

- Continued support for those who are quitting smoking – they will continue to require support for many years to come.
- Continued price rises, as these remain the major driver for quit attempts.

Unless these recommendations are acted upon, there will not be a Smokefree Aotearoa by 2025. The goal is in sight. This Bill and the recommendations of the Maori Select Committee bring us close to that goal. The College supports the Bill and recommendations of the Maori Select Committee as the only viable option in bringing an end to the presence of tobacco products in our land.

We do not wish to appear before the Committee.

Kia kaha.