



# COLLEGE OF NURSES AOTEAROA (NZ) Inc

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**To: Health Select Committee**  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

## **Submission on Smokefree Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the *Smokefree Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill*.

This submission represents the opinion of The College of Nurses (Aotearoa) ("the College"). The College is a professional body of New Zealand registered nurses and nurse practitioners from all regions and specialties both within and outside of the District Health Board (DHB) setting. It provides a voice for the nursing profession and professional commentary on issues that affect nurses, and also the health of the whole community, aiming for excellence in nursing practice and health care delivery which addresses disparities in health.

As nurses we witness the direct and indirect results of tobacco use on the health and wellbeing of our patients and their whanau. Tobacco continues to be the leading cause of illness and premature death in New Zealand. Nurses provide care for the 5000 New Zealanders who die each year from tobacco related illness, including 600 whose illnesses are caused by exposure to the second hand smoke of others. We also work with the tens of thousands of people with respiratory disease, cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and numerous other painful and debilitating smoking related illnesses.

We fully support the *Smokefree Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill* and its immediate introduction in the interests of protecting future generations from suffering from the addictive effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to second hand smoke.

Tobacco plain packaging is an effective measure to reduce smoking initiation. It reduces the appeal of tobacco, increases the effectiveness of the health warnings on packs and removes the misleading perception of the products strength and harm. Essentially, the introduction of plain packs will save New Zealanders lives.

Nurses do not want to be providing palliative care to 5000 people or nursing tens of thousands of people with smoking related conditions in another generation. Do not let tobacco be the leading cause of illness and premature death for another generation. Support the *Smokefree Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill* and its immediate introduction.

Ngā mihi,

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