



Media Release

Date 6 September 2017

Tobacco law reform in Western Australia well overdue

The Heart Foundation Western Australia and the Australian Council on Smoking and Health have welcomed an announcement today by the Minister for Health for changes to WA's tobacco control legislation.

"These are the first changes to tobacco laws in Western Australia since 2010, and are well overdue", said Mr Maurice Swanson, Chief Executive of the Heart Foundation and President of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health.

"These legislative changes will help Western Australia catch up to tobacco law reform already implemented in other states of Australia.

"The changes announced today focus mainly on the sale of tobacco in retail outlets and they are welcome, particularly the proposal that tobacco can only be sold by people over the age of 18.

"We look forward to working with the Minister for Health, and the Department of Health Western Australia to implement further changes to tobacco legislation that will help WA regain its Australian leadership in reducing the use of tobacco by adults and children", Mr Swanson said.

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**For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Mr Maurice Swanson
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The Heart Foundation saves lives and improves health through funding world-class cardiovascular research, guidelines for health professionals, informing the public and assisting people with cardiovascular disease. As a charity, the Heart Foundation relies on donations and gifts in wills to continue its lifesaving research, education and health promotion work. For further information go to www.heartfoundation.org.au or call 1300 36 27 87.

The Australian Council on Smoking and Health is dedicated to reducing the impact of tobacco on the West Australian community and is generously supported by Healthway (West Australian Health Promotion Foundation). For further information go to www.acosh.org or call 08 6365 5436.