



Tobacco smoking is known to cause 16 different types of cancer<sup>i</sup>, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, pulmonary diseases, including asthma, type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis, adult periodontal disease as well as many other health harms<sup>ii</sup>. Over 500 Tasmanians die each year from smoking<sup>iii</sup>.

The need for tobacco control is as great as ever. The Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council Tasmania commends the Tasmanian Government for identifying smoking as a priority area for action in their Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan and on providing the additional funding to achieve the evidence-based level of investment for tobacco control mass media campaigns until June 2019. It is critical that funding for these campaigns continue in order to achieve the evidence-based level of saturation to assist around 74,000 Tasmanians who currently smoke to quit for good and discourage young people from taking up smoking.

Tobacco smoking is still the leading cause of preventable disease and premature death in Australia<sup>iv</sup>, with long term smoking killing two in three users<sup>v</sup>. Tasmania has the second highest smoking rate in the country, with around 1 in 5 Tasmanians who currently smoke.

The Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council Tasmania continues to encourage the State Government to set targets for a reduction in smoking prevalence in Tasmania, continue to invest in proven tobacco control measures as set out in the Tasmanian Tobacco Control Plan 2017-21, and welcome any policy reform that is likely to reduce smoking prevalence and is feasible and broadly acceptable to the community. Any new measures need to be undertaken as part of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Lynch".

Graeme Lynch

**Chief Executive Officer**

Heart Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Egan".

Penny Egan

**Chief Executive Officer**

Cancer Council Tasmania

---

<sup>i</sup>International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, volume 100 (E). A review of human carcinogens: Personal habits and indoor combustions. Lyon, France: IARC; 2012 Jan 1.

<sup>ii</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2016). Web report: Evidence for chronic disease risk factors. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/chronic-disease/evidence-for-chronic-disease-risk-factors/contents/behavioural-and-biomedical-risk-factors> Accessed: 7 Aug 2018.

<sup>iii</sup> DHHS Epidemiology Unit (2015). Deaths caused by smoking, alcohol and other selected causes, Tasmania 2008-2012.

<sup>iv</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015. Leading cause of premature mortality in Australia fact sheet: lung cancer. Cat. no. PHE 192. Canberra: AIHW.

<sup>v</sup> Banks, E. *et al* (2015). Tobacco smoking and all-cause mortality in a large Australian cohort study: Findings from a mature epidemic with current low smoking prevalence. *BMC Medicine*, 13, 38.