

Smokefree Nurses Aotearoa/New Zealand  
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Date: 10 / 3 / 2014

**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*.

Smokefree Nurses Aotearoa/New Zealand is a non-profit advocacy group supporting work to reduce death and disease caused by tobacco. We have a membership of over 900 nurses working across hospital, community, mental health, primary care, Maori and Pacific health services along with academics and researchers. Smokefree Nurses is funded by the Ministry of Health and AUT University to support nurses in their vital role of helping clients and patients to quit smoking.

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.

Grace Wong  
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