



香港社會醫學學院  
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE  
founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine  
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**COUNCIL 2015-16**

June 29, 2015

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黃仰山

Clerk to Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Secretariat, Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

**Legislative Proposals to Strengthen Tobacco Control**

The Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (HKCCM) lends full support to the strengthening of measures for tobacco control proposed by the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on May 18, 2015 (LC Paper No. CB (2)1456/14-15(07)). HKCCM is one of the Colleges under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. We are responsible for the accreditation and training of Community Medicine specialists

Smoking remains the single most important preventable cause of death and diseases in Hong Kong. Despite a gradual downward trend over the decades, greater than 10% of the population aged over 15 years (i.e., roughly 650,000 people) still smoke on a daily basis. The proposed measures are a much needed step in the right direction.

**(a) Health Warnings on Tobacco Products**

Pictorial warnings in Hong Kong were introduced in 2007 and they have not changed since then. In line with Guidelines by the World Health Organization (WHO), there is a global trend of health authorities to increase the size of these warnings and the number of messages contained therein to alert smokers of health hazards. We support the Administration's proposal for Hong Kong to adopt similar measures in this regard.

**(b) Smoking Ban at Bus Interchange (BIs) at Tunnels Portal Areas**

This measure will protect large numbers of passengers using such facilities every day from the health hazards of second-hand smoke. We believe it will be welcomed and supported by the public at large.



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(c) Electronic Cigarettes

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The potential health hazards of electronic cigarettes are being increasingly recognized worldwide, as evidenced by concerns from the WHO and regulatory measures from some advanced economies. In particular, there are questions about their safety (e.g., toxic/irritant substances contained in the vapor) and their lure to young people to pick up smoking habit. In view of its uprisng trend, we support appropriate measures at this juncture to curb the health hazards of electronic cigarettes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Thomas TSANG  
Vice-President, Hong Kong College of Community Medicine