



香港防癌會

THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY

Since 1963

PATRON 贊助人

The Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region
People's Republic of China
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Certified Public Accountants

張梁許李會計師事務所有限公司

15 May 2017

Clerk to Subcommittee on Smoking (Public Health)
Legislative Council
Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

By email: lwcyu@legco.gov.hk

Dear Sirs / Madams,

Re: Enactment of Enlargement of Pictorial Health Warnings

In response to the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) urging the Government to legislate as soon as possible to enlarge the pictorial health warnings on the cigarette packs, we are pleased to know that the Legislative Council Subcommittee on Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) (Amendment) Order 2017 was formed to discuss the legislation and will be holding a deputation meeting again on 23 May 2017.

It has been 2 year since the Government proposed to enlarge the size of health warnings to cover at least 85% of the surface area of cigarette packs in May 2015. We hereby submit our advocacy letter in support of the COSH's campaign, and look forward to the passing of the proposed legislation soon.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Patricia Chu, BBS
Chairman
The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society

Encl.

PC/IL/wst



Enactment of Enlargement of Pictorial Health Warnings

The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society fully supports the Government's gazette in April 2017 to enlarge the pictorial health warnings on cigarette packs to 85%, increase the number of forms of warning signs to 12, and show the quitting hotline on those forms.

During the past 53 years, the Society has been reaching out to different sectors of the community and working to educate the public to understand the danger of smoking including passive smoking, as a proven risk factor for getting cancer; and empower them to take early action to modify their behavior in cancer prevention. Eradicating smoking-related cancers is one of our long-term objectives.

Our rationales:

1. Smoking is unarguably the most dangerous carcinogens to human in the world.
2. Tobacco causes an estimated 22% of all cancer death and an estimated total of 1.6 million in 2004 globally, according to latest figures on the WHO website.
3. Worldwide, around 80% of lung cancer in men & 50% in women are caused by tobacco smoking.
4. In Hong Kong, cancer is a major health problem. According to data provided by the HK Cancer Registry, there were a total of 28,936 new cancer cases and 13,589 deaths registered in 2013.
5. During the past decade (2003-2013), the number of cancer in HK rose at an average annual rate of 3.1% whereas the population grew at an annual rate of 0.7% according to data provided by the HK Cancer Registry.
6. Lung cancer is the 2nd most common and most fatal cancer in Hong Kong in 2013. According to the HK Cancer Registry, there were 4,631 new cases of lung cancer and 3,867 deaths were recorded in 2013.
7. Although the rising trend of lung cancer incidence is slowing down in recent years, the

numbers of new cases is projected to continue to increase probably by 40% in year 2030 despite the current smoking ban as projected by the HK Cancer Registry.

8. Over 90% of lung cancer patients were ever smokers. The more, longer and younger they smoke, the higher the risk of contracting lung cancer.
9. Lung cancer has one of the lowest survival rates of all cancers. 28.5% of all cancer deaths were contributed by lung cancer.
10. Smoking not only causes lung cancer but also increases the risk of oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, pancreas, urinary bladder, renal pelvis, nasal cavities, nasal sinuses, stomach, liver, kidney and uterine cervix cancers. Smoking is believed to be a predisposing factor for many cancers such as female breast, colorectal cancer, leukaemia, etc.
11. Smoking is the most preventable factor in cancer prevention.
12. The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society educates people never to start smoking, quit smoking and to avoid passive smoking.
13. The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society advocates education should start in family from childhood and be strengthened in schools.
14. The Australian experience of having implemented plain cigarette packaging since 2012 and successfully reduced the percentage of smoking population has proven that reducing attractiveness of tobacco products packaging is an effective measure for tobacco control. Furthermore, increasing size of pictorial health warning on cigarette packs could thus further enhance such effectiveness.