

Subject: Support for the enlargement of pictorial health warnings on packets and retail containers of tobacco.

The LegCo Panel on Health Services

Re: Support for the enlargement of pictorial health warnings on packets and retail containers of tobacco.

I am writing in support of the Government's proposal of enlarging the size of pictorial health warnings by at least 85% on packets and retail containers of tobacco products, increasing the number of health warning label and adding the quitline as published in the government's Gazette on 21 April 2017. Increasing the size, number and variety of the health warning label can motivate smokers to quit and deter youths from initiating smoking.

Smoking kills 1 in 2 smokers. Every delay in the implementation of the proposed tobacco policy means more smokers will die because of smoking and added burden to the public health. The government should place the health of people in top priority to the commercial consideration. No exemption should be allowed to other tobacco products like cigars which are hazardous to health.

It is my sincere hope that the proposed policy would be implemented as soon as possible to further decrease the local smoking prevalence and continue to make Hong Kong a model of successful tobacco control across the globe.

Luk Tzu Tsun

Registered nurse

15 May 2017