

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**School of Nursing**



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**Head of School:**

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RN, BA(Hons), PhD, MD(Hon causa)

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Legislative Council of HKSAR

Dear Legislative Council Councilors,

**Urge for the enlargement of health warnings on packets and retail containers of tobacco products**

Our School would like to urge the Legislative Council to enact the enlargement of pictorial health warnings to at least 85% , increasing the number of forms of health warning from six to twelve and adding the quitline 1833 183 promptly. The enlargement of pictorial health warnings can reduce the attractiveness of smoking, increase intention to quit, and deter youth from smoking.

Many countries have enlarged the coverage of pictorial health warnings of cigarette packs, including Nepal (90%), India (85%), Thailand (85%) and Uruguay (80%). Australia, United Kingdom France and Hungary have even implemented plain packaging. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of World Health Organization (“WHO”), also highlighted the success of plain packaging to tackle the tobacco epidemic at the 16th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in March 2015, and she called for more countries to adopt plain packaging or pictorial warnings covering more than 85% by 2018. The effectiveness of these measures has provided strong evidence and urgency for the implementation of enlargement of pictorial health warnings to at least 85% in Hong Kong. We urge the Government to implement the proposed measure as soon as possible to safeguard public health.

Yours faithfully,

Judith Parker AM  
Professor and Acting Head  
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(Represented by Dr William Ho Cheung Li)