



黃大仙區健康安全城市

Wong Tai Sin District Healthy & Safe City

22 May 2017

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資源中心內務委員會

主席

蘇浩培醫生

Chairman of Subcommittee on Smoking (Public Health) (Notices)
(Amendment) Order 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Wong Tai Sin District Healthy & Safe City supports

The Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) (Amendment) Order 2017

The Wong Tai Sin District Healthy & Safe City was accredited by the World Health Organisation as the world's 227th "International Safe Community" on January 29, 2011. We serve to promote health and safety for all people in Wong Tai Sin. We strongly support to enlarge the size of pictorial health warnings to cover at least 85% of all types of tobacco packaging, increase the number of forms of health warning from six to twelve, and include the quit smoking hotline on the pack.

Not just a medical doctor would recognize the tobacco carries a lot of health hazards and economic burdens on the society to provide medical care and loss productivity. Friends and relatives of the chronic smoker would also suffers from second hand smoking.

It is imperative for us to prevent people especially young person to take up smoking, as we know it is not easy to quit smoking as tobacco contains powerful addictive (nicotine). This could be achieved by including pictorial warning messages on the pack and render the pack less attractive.

本會乃已獲《稅務條例》第88條豁免繳稅的慈善機構



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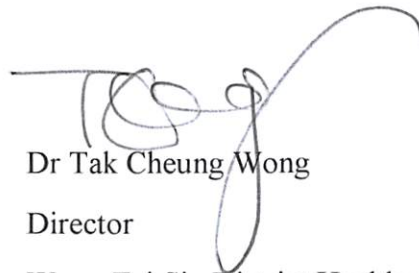
蘇浩培醫生

The increase to at least 85% of the tobacco packaging is the first step towards plain packaging. According to World Health Organization in 2106, plain tobacco packaging would

1. Reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products
2. Eliminate the effects of tobacco packaging as a form of advertising and promotion
3. Address package design techniques that may suggest that some products are less harmful than others
4. Increase the noticeability and effectiveness of health warnings

On 21st May 2017, United Kingdom adopted the plain packaging for all tobacco packaging after Australia (2012). Other countries to follow include France, Norway, Ireland, Hungary and New Zealand. Hong Kong should take this vital step now to control and limit the hazards relating to tobacco.

Hong Kong was amongst the first Asia country to implement the six pictorial health warning on the tobacco packaging since 2007. Regrettably, there was no revision for the last ten years. Its effect has been gradually wearing off as smoker become accustomed to it. The deterring effect could be enhanced if the number could be increased to twelve as it provides a fresh and wider warning message.



Dr Tak Cheung Wong

Director

Wong Tai Sin District Healthy & Safe City

本會乃已獲《稅務條例》第88條豁免繳稅的慈善機構