

# 香港社會醫學學院

#### HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE

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**COUNCIL 2017-18** 

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

Prof Fung Hong

馮康

President

Vice-President

Dr Thomas Tsang 曾浩輝

Dear Sir/Madam,

10 January 2017

Chief Censor

Dr Y Y Ho 何玉賢

Honorary Secretary

Dr Jackie Leung 梁靜勤

Honorary Treasurer

Dr Mandy Ho 何孟儀

Members

Dr W L Cheung 張偉麟

> Dr S P Mak 麥倩屏

Dr Y H Tam 譚一鴻

Dr Nancy Tung 董秀英

> Dr Y K Wan 溫遠光

Prof Samuel Wong 黃仰山

### Submission of views from the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine

## **Proposal to Amend Health Warnings on Tobacco Product Packets and Retail Containers**

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (the "College"), I would like to submit our views on the captioned subject to be deliberated under the LegCo Panel of Health Services on 17 January 2017.

The College supports Government's proposal to amend health warnings on tobacco product packets and retail containers. Notwithstanding progress made in tobacco control during the past decades, there are still thousands of lives to be saved from tobacco every year, as smoking is still the foremost preventable cause of disease and mortality in Hong Kong.

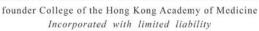
The World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on tobacco advertising are clear and explicit. They provide robust public health and scientific basis for the current proposals. Many countries have adopted the WHO recommendations and the measures are proven to be effective. Claims about illicit tobacco trade are not substantiated based on international experience.

We are concerned that existing pictorial warnings have been stagnant for quite a number of years and their effect is wearing off. In particular, larger warnings are needed to maintain effectiveness over time and communicate health effects of smoking to children and young people.



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The proposals are much needed steps to upgrade protection against the harms of tobacco. If they are not implemented in good time, Hong Kong will be in danger of losing its hard earned achievements in tobacco control.

#### **COUNCIL 2017-18**

President

The College is happy to attend the hearing on 17 January 2017 to elaborate our views.

Prof Fung Hong 馮康

Vice-President

Dr Thomas Tsang 曾浩輝

Chief Censor

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Prof Samuel Wong 黄仰山 Yours sincerely,

Dr TSANG Ho Fai, Thomas

Vice President

Hong Kong College of Community Medicine