



Hong Kong College of Paediatricians  
香港兒科醫學院  
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with Limited Liability)



LC Paper No. CB(2)899/16-17(01)

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**Hon Legal Advisor**

Mr. Kenneth SIT

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Walter Ma & Co.

13 February 2017

Chairman

Panel on Health Services

Hong Kong Legislative Council

Dear Chairman,

**Re: Comments on LC Paper No. CB(2)386/16-17(05)**

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians, we are writing to support the proposal to amend health warnings on tobacco product packing and retail containers. Enforcement of a more stringent regulation on health warnings on tobacco products actually serves as an effective tobacco control policy to safeguard public health by discouraging smoking, particularly among the youth, and minimizing the impact of passive smoking on non-smoking population.

Being the sole statutory body responsible for training and professional examination of Paediatricians in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians also plays the critical role of providing advice to the Government and Policy-makers on key issues related to the health and well-being of children and their families. Youth smoking and second-hand tobacco smoke has been an important health threat affecting the health of our children and adolescents. Its long term adverse consequences on population health and society have been well documented in overseas and local studies. The multi-pronged approach involving legislation and publicity on health hazards of smoking has successfully reduced the smoking prevalence in Hong Kong in the past decade. However, it is still worrying to witness the prevalence of smoking among adolescents and young population maintaining at a relatively high level. The existing batch of health warning pictures has been in use since 2007 and it is now timely to consider proper change in the health warning practice in order to



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strengthen its effects in reducing smoking.

We consider the proposed change in the prescribed forms of health warnings on tobacco products a right direction to protect the health of our children and urge the government to enforce a more stringent regulation and increase the area of the graphic health warning on cigarette packet and tobacco-related retail container.

Yours faithfully,

Prof Yu-lung Lau

President

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians