

**From:** "Ho, Ka Yan" [REDACTED]  
**To:** panel\_hs@legco.gov.hk

LC Paper No. CB(2)1028/16-17(10)

**Date:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 09:58PM

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

---

Dear Legislative Council Secretariat,

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

We 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 at the special meeting held by the Panel on Health Services of the Legislative Council on 20 March 2017. 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 hope the Legislative Council could implement the proposed measure immediately to safeguard public health.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Eva Ho  
(On behalf of the Smoking Cessation Research Team  
School of Nursing  
The University of Hong Kong)