



29 April 2019

Mayor Phil Angers
Mayor
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
COTTESLOE WA 6911

Email: council@cottesloe.wa.gov.au

Dear Mayor Angers

TOWN OF COTTESLOE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY LOCAL LAW – INTENTION TO BAN SMOKING

The AMA (WA) wishes to express its support and commends the Cottesloe Council for the proposed smoking ban on ALL public beaches west of Marine Parade and Curtin Avenue.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA, and the medical profession more broadly, is committed to efforts that seek to reduce the number of people who smoke tobacco and other nicotine based products.

Despite achievements in reducing smoking prevalence over time, more than 200,000 adults in WA continue to smoke. Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and disease worldwide. There is no safe level of tobacco and smoking is a leading risk factor for cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness and preventable death. Statistics related to health effects of smoking are staggering and this should be used to support these new restrictions.

- Smoking reduces life expectancy by 10 years
- Smoking ten cigarettes a day doubles the risk of death
- Smoking 25 cigarettes a day increases risk of death by four to five fold

Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of passive smoking and second hand smoke, and there is little evidence to suggest that smoking outside eliminates the risk of passive smoking for children. Children exposed to passive smoke are at higher risk of respiratory infections, asthma, bacterial meningitis and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Second-hand smoke is a cause of premature death and disease in children and non-smoking adults, with no amount of exposure being risk-free.

The steps taken by the Town of Cottesloe in making amendments to local government laws are important in establishing positive smoke-free role models for youth, reducing youth opportunities to smoke, and avoiding exposure to second-hand smoke.

AMA (WA) would like to propose that the ban also include nicotine-based e-cigarettes. There is little evidence that vaping is safer than smoking and there are very real fears of that new generation will become addicted to nicotine based products.

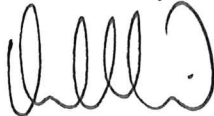
It is positive to note that the Councillors at the Town of Cottesloe voted unanimously to impose the new restrictions and we support the Council's decision and believe the potential benefits to our community are overwhelming.

The smoking bans on public beaches are already in effect in Joondalup and Cockburn and this sets a precedent for the Town of Cottesloe.

It is crucial that there are smoke free, family friendly public environments and Cottesloe Council's move to ban smoking on all public beaches should encourage other councils to follow suit.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final flourish, representing Dr Omar Khorshid.

DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

Cc: Mr Mat Humfrey, Chief Executive Officer Town of Cottesloe