

Select stories in the media – March 2006

Date	Title	Journalist/Author	Page	Paper/Source	Summary
1 Mar 2006	Editorial “Obvious solutions”		26	Daily Telegraph	Editorial on banning smoking in cars noting that lighting up a cigarette is as dangerous as using a mobile phone but argues the impracticalities of legislating the ban.
1 Mar 2006	Smoking ban in cars violates civil rights	Letters to the editor	28	Daily Telegraph	Letters to the editor regarding the proposed ban on smoking in cars.
1 Mar 2006	Opinion: Grim life hiding from the everything police	Masters, Clare	27	Daily Telegraph	The personal responsibility argument emerges in light of the proposed ban on smoking in cars. David Elliott from the Australian Hotels Association is quoted: “Soon we’ll need a permit just to breathe the air.”
1 Mar 2006	Smoking ban in cars impractical	Patty, Anna	6	Daily Telegraph	NSW Parliament may debate the pros and cons of banning smoking in cars, however, NSW Premier, Morris Iemma, considers banning smoking in cars excessive.
1 Mar 2006	Images a hazard	Paramor, John	14	Sydney Morning Herald	Letter to the editor about the new graphic health warnings.
1 Mar 2006	Slow burn over on-screen smoking	Callaghan, Ruth	2	West Australian	Story in the Health Section on smoking in movies , highlighting the prevalence of cigarettes in recent films.
2 Mar 2006	Smoking ban		5	Adelaide Advertiser	Victorian Premier Steve Bracks defends the decision to exempt high roller rooms at Crown Casino from workplace smoking bans on the basis of cultural differences with international visitors.
2 Mar 2006	Corbell backs cigarette pics		10	Canberra Times	ACT Health Minister Simon Corbell endorses the new graphical health warnings on cigarette packs: “These warnings are intended to increase consumer knowledge of the health effects of smoking, to encourage cessation and discourage uptake or relapse”. Reports cigarette vending machines are going to be banned from September 1 and all restaurants, bars, nightclubs, gaming and other enclosed places will be smokefree from December 1.
2 Mar 2006	Grim tags get canned by tobacco companies	O’Leary, Cathy	3	West Australian	Reports that some tobacco companies are now packaging cigarettes in retro-style tins with adhesive health warning stickers that smokers can easily remove.
5 Mar 2006	Smoking rife in films	Weaver, Clair	27	Sunday Telegraph (Sydney)	Highlights the prevalence of cigarettes in recent films, particular films nominated for an Oscar (Academy Award).

7 Mar 2006	Smoking may guard against Parkinson's	Sommerfield, Jeff	7	Courier Mail (Brisbane)	Reports on research by Dr Yifu Deng investigating the CYP2D6 gene.
7 Mar 2006	[Letter to the editor]	Staats, M	14	Courier Mail (Brisbane)	Letter to the editor in response to the new graphic health warning messages on cigarette packs. Suggests warning messages should be added to alcohol.
7 Mar 2006	Smoke rules plea to MPs		5	Daily Telegraph (Sydney)	Smoke Free Australia lobbies the NSW government to block new smoking laws because they are not comprehensive.
8 Mar 2006	Libs fuming over cigarette protest			The Examiner (Launceston)	10,000 empty cigarette packets were left at the Liberal Party headquarters in Hobart by Greens candidate Cassy O'Connor in protest over tobacco money accepted by the major political parties.
8 Mar 2006	Tobacco cash protest: Greens dump empty cigarette packets at Liberal HQ	Martain, Tim	5	The Mercury (Hobart)	10,000 empty cigarette packets were left at the Liberal Party headquarters in Hobart by Greens candidate Cassy O'Connor in protest over tobacco money accepted by the major political parties.
9 Mar 2006	Did passive smoking kill Dana Reeve?		3	Canberra Times	Dana Reeve, widow of Christopher Reeve aka Superman actor, died from lung cancer even though she was not a smoker.
9 Mar 2006	Work smoke action	Pountney, Michelle	29	Herald Sun (Melbourne)	Story about the introduction of total smoking bans in most enclosed workplaces in Victoria.
10 Mar 2006	We all skate across life's frozen pond	Warden, Ian	2	Canberra Times	Opinion, prompted by the new government graphic health warnings on cigarette packets.
11 Mar 2006	Editorial: Quit for good of all		22	Daily Telegraph	Editorial commenting on the forthcoming release of a NSW Health report that shows a 1 per cent drop in smoking prevalence in NSW. The editor agrees with anti-smoking campaigns to ban smoking in enclosed public spaces.
11 Mar 2006	NSW kicking a filthy habit: smoking bans aid quit campaign	Masters, Clare	9	Daily Telegraph	Reports on smoking prevalence statistics, including the forthcoming report from NSW Health that shows a 1 per cent decline in smoking in NSW. Notes NSW Quitline statistics. Prof Jim Bishop and Simon Chapman are quoted, commenting on the pubs and clubs smoking bans.
12 Mar 2006	Warnings go up in smoke		36	Sun Herald (Sydney)	Some tobacco companies are now packaging cigarettes in retro-style tins with adhesive health warning stickers that smokers can easily remove. Cigarette brands reported in article include Dunhill and Peter Stuyvesant.
12 Mar 2006	Move to ban car smokers	Quartermaine, Braden	3	Sunday Times (Perth)	Story about smoking in cars and the impact of secondhand smoke on young children.

13 Mar 2006	Smoking gun threatens Bush's envoy pick	Walker, Tony (NY)	3	Australian Financial Review	George Bush has nominated Robert McCallum to be ambassador to Australia. McCallum intervened in court cases on behalf of the tobacco industry.
13 Mar 2006	Smokers avoid lung tests		15	Herald Sun (Melbourne)	Reports on research conducted for pharmaceutical company Pfizer. 1354 Australians were surveyed and two thirds did not know what chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was.
14 Mar 2006	Nicabate debate abates: shops sell patches		7	Daily Telegraph (Sydney)	Nicabate (GlaxoSmithKline nicotine replacement therapy product) has been rescheduled and will soon be available in supermarkets.
14 Mar 2006	Toxins alert		24	Herald Sun (Melbourne)	Reports on Canadian research on environmental toxins (lead, trihalomethanes), which are present in drinking water, ionising radiation from indoor radon gas and tobacco smoke, can seriously damage health even at very low levels.
14 Mar 2006	Ciggie ban for pubs goes up in smoke	Gumbleton, Emma	6	Northern Territory News	The NT government is not considering implementing smoking bans in pubs and clubs.
14 Mar 2006	Nicotine patches in more spots	Cresswell, Adam	7	The Australian	Nicabate (GlaxoSmithKline nicotine replacement therapy product) has been rescheduled and will be available in supermarkets from May 2006.
16 Mar 2006	Trend back to smoking: Tassie bucks previous decline with 25.4% lighting up	Mather, Anne	13	Hobart Mercury	Reports on data from the ABS National Health Survey 2004-5.
16 Mar 2006	Sartor quits his fight to hide tobacco	Clennell, Andrew	1	Sydney Morning Herald	Alleges the NSW government has secretly disbanded plans to legislate to remove cigarette packets from display in retail outlets. Documents obtained by the Herald under freedom of information laws reveal that the decision to shelve the plans to remove cigarette packets from display emerged following meetings between bureaucrats and representatives from retail and tobacco companies: "given recent developments in NSW in relation to ... banning smoking in pubs and clubs." Sartor was pro the idea in 2004: "You only have to walk into a supermarket to know tobacco products continue to occupy centre stage". Sartor in March 2006 "It would have been easier to take on retailers [but] it was a big cost and a big issue for relatively little return."

17 Mar 2006	Operation sick choice	Macken, Julie	73	Australian Financial Review	Report on health care expenditure.
17 Mar 2006	Questions for Bush's man Down Under	Ackland, Richard	13	Sydney Morning Herald	George Bush has nominated Robert McCallum to be ambassador to Australia. McCallum intervened in court cases on behalf of the tobacco industry.
17 Mar 2006	Sartor ignored warning about smoking ads	Clennell, Andrew	3	Sydney Morning Herald	More about the NSW government disbanding plans to legislate to remove cigarette packets from display in retail outlets.
17 Mar 2006	Bad habits costs NSW \$6b a year	Wade, Matt	3	Sydney Morning Herald	Reports on data from the David Collins and Helen Lapsley research on the social costs of smoking.
17 Mar 2006	Model's big earner becomes his own death warrant		28	West Australian	John Moore, a former British model and the face of Alpine cigarettes in the 1960s, has throat cancer.
18 Mar 2006	Smokers save us money	Pitt, Peter	34	Sydney Morning Herald	Letter to the editor criticising the Collins and Lapsley research.
18 Mar 2006	Children of smokers harbour high levels of dangerous bacteria	White, Christine	29	Weekend Australian	Item in the health section reporting on research in Clinical Infectious Diseases that found 76% of children exposed to tobacco smoke carried Streptococcus pneumoniae compared to 60% of children not exposed to tobacco smoke.
19 Mar 2006	Smokers ignore ban: no fines issued at Bondi and Manly beaches	Markson, Sharri	26	Sunday Telegraph (Sydney)	Smokers are still lighting up on Bondi and Manly beaches despite council bans in place.
19 Mar 2006	TV ad deters smokers		10	Sunday Times (Perth)	The Smarter than Smoking antismoking television campaign in WA is reportedly discouraging children from smoking.
20 Mar 2006	Tobacco economics is all smoke and mirrors		10	Sydney Morning Herald	Letters to the editors in response to Peter Pitt's letter.
20 Mar 2006	Supermarkets called on to hide cigarettes	Laurie, Tiffany	15	West Australian	Mike Daube, former WA Director General of Health and current president of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, wants Coles and Woolworths to remove cigarettes from view in WA. Coles in Tasmania set the precedent; tobacco products are displayed.

22 Mar 2006	Kick habit or kick the bucket early	Rauscher, Megan	24	Courier Mail	Reports on research published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. The study followed residents in rural Norway for 25 years and found that 41% of males who continued to smoke heavily died between 40 and 70 years, compared with 14% of males who never smoked. For females, 26% of women who smoked heavily died between 40 and 70, compared with 9% of women who did not smoke.
22 Mar 2006	Car smoking ban backed		13	Daily Telegraph (Sydney)	Anita Tang from the Cancer Council NSW (participating in the NSW parliamentary committee for tobacco use) stated that 50% of respondents to a community survey were supportive of a smoking ban in private cars.
22 Mar 2006	Quit and stay slim	Pountney, Michelle	24	Herald Sun (Melbourne)	Reports on research funded by the NHMRC and published in the American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine. Scientists have found that neuropeptide Y or NPY, which is a main regulator of appetite, is affected by smoking.
22 Mar 2006	Smoking in the park stubbed out	Malkin, Bonnie	3	Sydney Morning Herald	Reports on city councils that have prohibited smoking in outdoor play areas. Fairfield Council has introduced smoking bans on sports fields, adjacent green space and car parks, and areas within 10 metres of play equipment in public parks. Hawkesbury, Pittwater, Baulkham Hills and Liverpool councils have also banned smoking near playing fields.
23 Mar 2006	Get tough blueprint		10	Daily Telegraph (Sydney)	The Australian Medical Association NSW division presented a 5 point antismoking strategy to NSW Parliament that included a plan for banning the display of cigarette packets at point of sale.
23 Mar 2006	Stop smoking, mum: quit plan for pregnancy	Masters, Clare	10	Daily Telegraph (Sydney)	Health professionals in NSW hospitals will be trained to provide smoking cessation advice to pregnant women who smoke.
24 Mar 2006	Smoking link to impotence		22	Courier Mail (Brisbane)	Reports on an Australian study published in Tobacco Control that found almost 1 in 10 aged 16 to 59 had some form of erectile dysfunction.
26 Mar 2006	Cigs divide golf course	Burke, Edmund	19	Sunday Mail (Brisbane)	Reports on a plan by the Ashgrove Golf Club to accommodate smokers and nonsmokers.
26 Mar 2006	NSW is fatter by trying to get fitter	Oakley, Vivienne	9	Sunday Telegraph (Sydney)	Reports on findings from the 2005 NSW Health survey. The number of smokers is reported to be at a record low.

26 Mar 2006	Get S-plates: you're licensed to smoke	Mitchell, Alex	19	Sydney Morning Herald	Reports on a paper by Simon Chapman and Jonathan Liberman published in Tobacco Control that proposes a licensing scheme for tobacco users to ensure that they are adequately informed about the health risks associated with smoking.
27 Mar 2006	Graphic cigarette warning 'delayed'		2	Adelaide Advertiser	Tobacco companies are accused of delaying the distribution of cigarette packets with the new graphic health warnings.
28 Mar 2006	Smoke signals	Syvret, Paul	23	Courier Mail (Brisbane)	Pro-smokers' response to the suggestion of a licensing scheme for tobacco users.
28 Mar 2006	Cigs quit rate slows		11	Hobart Mercury	Stephen Woodward feels antismoking campaign strategies need an overhaul.
29 Mar 2006	Album goes up in smoke		3	MX (Melbourne)	The Beatles Capitol Albums (Volume 2) are being re-released in the UK and cigarettes that appeared on the original cover have been airbrushed out. Comments that George Harrison sang about his addiction to nicotine in his posthumous <i>Horse to Water</i> .
29 Mar 2006	Tobacco cloud on Grand Prix	Fogarty, Mark	1	The Age (Melbourne)	The Australian Grand Prix festivities have started and Bernie Ecclestone (F1 boss) is lobbying for motorsport tobacco sponsorship and branding to continue.
30 Mar 2006	Restrictions on smoking draw fire [letters to the editor]	Chapman, Simon; Cutting, Don; Offord, Jo	24	Courier Mail (Brisbane)	Letters to the editor in response to the item by Paul Syvret (Courier Mail March 28).
30 Mar 2006	Tobacco ad ban won't jeopardise GP: Bracks: new sponsors expected to be found	Holroyd, Jane	5	The Age (Melbourne)	Victorian Premier Steve Bracks is confident that new sponsors will be found for the Formula One (F1 Grand Prix).
30 Mar 2006	Lay off our fags [letter to the editor]	Mahon, Lawry	14	The Age (Melbourne)	Letter to the editor in response to banning F1 tobacco sponsorship.