



# Government Media Statement

28 October 2003

---

**DAVID LLEWELLYN**  
Minister for Health and Human Services

---

## **NIGHTCLUBS, GAMING AREAS TO GO SMOKE-FREE**

---

The State Government will introduce legislation requiring all nightclubs, cabarets and gaming areas to become totally smoke free.

Health and Human Services Minister David Llewellyn said today that Cabinet also had decided to legislate to make half of all outdoor dining areas operated by building occupiers smoke-free.

Mr Llewellyn said smoking would be banned in all but one bar or room in hotels, taverns and other licensed venues.

In those venues, there would be no smoking within one metre of the bar or cashier. In venues where only one bar exists smoking would be excluded from 50% of that bar.

To provide fair notice and enable operators time to adjust to the new restrictions, they would be introduced from December 31, 2004.

Mr Llewellyn said the changes would significantly extend protection from second-hand smoke for workers, customers and the public in hospitality and gaming venues.

Cabinet's decision follows extensive public and industry consultation that revealed overwhelming support for increasing protection against environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).

A report by Department of Health and Human Services released in June found that current legislation does not sufficiently protect the health of workers and customers in the hospitality industry from exposure to the dangers of ETS.

“Extension of the current legislation will serve to better protect the health of hospitality workers and visitors to these venues from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke,” Mr Llewellyn said.

“Existing legislation introduced by the Bacon Labor Government in 2001 was a major step forward in protecting workers and the public from adverse health effects of second hand smoke in enclosed public places and workplaces.

“The new legislation takes us significantly further down the track.

“Bars and gaming areas have been the exception as smoking has already been prohibited in other enclosed public places and workplaces - including restaurants, cafes, theatres, factories, offices and shops.

“These reforms will significantly tighten the restrictions and improve the protection for workers and patrons from ETS exposure.

“Industry will benefit because the likelihood of passive smoking related claims against employers and proprietors will be lessened.

The Government decision was a further incremental approach in banning smoking in public places and further action was inevitable.

“The changes will simplify the current legislation, which has been found to be confusing in some areas - particularly where it focuses on the availability of food in determining if certain areas must be smoke free.”

Mr Llewellyn said the Government’s proposals would give bars and gaming areas 14 months to adjust to the new requirements.

“The phase-in period will provide industry with an opportunity to act to minimise any negative impact.”

*This initiative/program is part of the State Government’s commitment to progressing Tasmania Together Goals/Benchmarks – Goal5 Develop an approach to health and wellbeing that focuses on preventing poor health and encouraging healthy lifestyles.*

---

Contact Stewart Prins on 6233 2451/0419339262  
Web site address – <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/>