

Department of Health

LEGAL SERVICES

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Right to Information Decision – Public Disclosure Log

Right to Information No.: RTI201819-024

Date of Application: 18 April 2019

Date of Decision: 13 June 2019

Information Requested

The information requested:

The general topic of information applied for is meetings between the Tasmanian Government and the Minderoo Foundation or its representatives between October 2018 and March 2019 regarding tobacco control

1. A copy of any document recording or noting any meeting, or the discussion at any meeting:

- a. between October 2018 and March 2019; and
- b. at which tobacco control, tobacco products or smoking were discussed

2. A copy of any briefing notes or formal advice provided to the Premier, Ministers or Government representatives between October 2018 and March 2019:

- a. in connection with tobacco control, tobacco products or smoking

Decision

The information requested is attached.

Dot Points for Minister

Minister Ferguson MP
Minister for Health

Subject: Meeting with Minderoo Foundation, 19 November 2018 at 2pm

- The Eliminate Cancer Initiative (ECI) has been established by the Minderoo Foundation to make cancer non-lethal for the next generation.
- One element of the ECI agenda focuses on tobacco control, in particular to raise the minimum age of tobacco purchase from 18 to 21 years.
- The meeting on 19 November is with Bruce Mansfield, the Chief Operating Officer of the ECI.

- The *Public Health Amendment (Prevention of Sale of Smoking Products to Under-age Persons) Bill 2018* seeks to amend the *Public Health Act 1997* to increase the legal smoking age in three stages – firstly to 19 years of age, then a year later to 20, then a year later to 21.
- It also seeks to extend the ban on smoking to 21 years, introduce an offence for an under-age person to produce false proof-of-age identification when purchasing tobacco and to require a review by the Director of Public Health within three years.
- ECI supports the Bill which would achieve the same outcome they are seeking.

- The rationale for increasing the age of purchase to 21 is to widen the age gap between those most at risk of taking up smoking and those who can legally purchase tobacco. This would make access to tobacco harder for young people.
- In Tasmania, 25 per cent of secondary school students obtained their last cigarette by having someone buy it for them. 79 per cent of those purchased were by a friend over 18 years of age.

- In 2016, the *National Drug Strategy Household Survey* found 64 per cent support for the idea nationally and a survey of Tasmanians conducted by ECI in 2018 found 73 per cent support.