

To: the Joint Advisory Committee on Medicines and Chemicals Scheduling (Joint ACMS-ACCS#24) March 2020.

Regarding: Philip Morris International's (PMI) application to include tobacco packed for heating in the exemptions in the Poisons Schedule.

I understand that the application by PMI, if approved, would allow PMI and other tobacco companies to sell their heat-not-burn (HnB) tobacco products or what they term "smoke free products" alongside regular tobacco cigarettes to all Australians over the age of 18. This would be a public health disaster.

I am the co-ordinator of the Lung Life Support Group which supports people who have chronic lung disease. Most of the members suffer from COPD brought about by smoking when they were younger – which they took up as a result of the marketing by cigarette companies. We now know that these companies were aware of the dangers of cigarette smoking and hid the evidence.

Chronic lung disease limits the sufferer's ability to breathe easily – which, in turn, limits their quality of life. It is harder to do everyday activities; it is harder to live an active social life; it reduces the sufferer's income and increases their health costs; and it increases the public health cost.

We would not like to see a similar health disaster with the HnB products with its obvious personal, social, and economic consequences.

The toxicity of heat-not-burn products

We know that HnB products are toxic and when used as intended they are undeniably harmful to health. It is well established, and admitted by tobacco companies, that:

- HnB products produce the same nicotine addiction and toxic chemicals as regular cigarettes
- and these chemicals cause a range of diseases, including lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Risks and benefits of heat-not-burn products

We know that tobacco use kills more than 15,500 Australians every year and remains the leading cause of preventable burden in Australia, despite a reduction in the daily smoking rate in Australia from 19% in 2008 to 13.8% in 2018.

These products will - as intended by tobacco companies - increase "smoking rates" by enticing new users to try new, cleverly designed and marketed, addictive tobacco products. This would expose a new generation of young Australians to an unacceptable – and completely avoidable - risk to their current and future health.

There are no health benefits associated with the use of heat-not-burn tobacco products, despite the claims of PMI and others. There is no evidence from any long-term clinical trials and/or observational studies that HnB products reduce the risk of

tobacco-related illnesses or assist people to quit tobacco use. The only proven way to prevent or reduce the risk of tobacco-attributable diseases is to quit tobacco use.

It is the right of all Australians to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical health and mental health and wellbeing. Preventing disease and ill-health, such as preventing a nicotine addiction, seeks to achieve this right. Australia must not be fooled into facilitating addiction by varying degrees.

Please, do not allow PMI and other tobacco companies to sell their heat-not-burn (HnB) tobacco products to Australians over the age of 18.

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