



Tobacco and Smoking Policy

INTRODUCTION

Smoking is a proven cause of cancer in many different parts of the body¹ and is the largest readily preventable cause of cancer mortality in New Zealand. Over 80% of lung cancers are caused by smoking², and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in New Zealand for both Maori and others.³ In all, it is estimated that *smoking causes a quarter of all cancer deaths in New Zealand*.⁴ It is also an important cause of health inequalities, with higher death rates for Maori and Pacific peoples.

As a result of the unequivocal link between smoking and cancer, and the significant burden of smoking-related cancers in New Zealand, the Cancer Society of New Zealand considers efforts to reduce the harm caused by smoking as one of its priority areas in cancer prevention.

Given the immense danger to health and life which smoking causes, the Cancer Society of New Zealand opposes the promotion and use of cigarettes and wishes to do everything it can to avoid links with the tobacco industry and discourage smoking.

The Society recognises that cigarettes are the only consumer product that kills when used as the manufacturer intended. Though recognising that there are cancer risks associated with the over-consumption of certain consumer products, it notes that smoking is unique because it is addictive, toxic, and lethal to half of its long-term users. The number of people harmed by tobacco worldwide is of epidemic magnitude. Moreover, tobacco industry products are not regulated like other consumer products and historically they have been exempt from food and drug legislation, consumer product safety legislation and hazardous product legislation.⁵

¹ The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has stated that smoking is an important contributing factor for cancers of the lung, oral cavity, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, larynx, oesophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, kidney (body and pelvis), ureter, urinary bladder, uterine cervix and bone marrow (myeloid leukaemia). (*Tobacco Smoking and Involuntary Smoking, IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Volume 83, International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organisation, 2004. Online summary viewed July 15th 2006 at: <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol83/volume83.pdf>*).

² In New Zealand amongst men, 87% of lung cancer deaths are due to smoking. This figure is slightly lower for women at 79%.

³ Ministry of Health. 2004. Mortality and Demographic Data 2000. New Zealand Health Information Services. Viewed 16th April 2006 at: [<http://www.nzhis.govt.nz/publications/mortality00.pdf>]

⁴ Mortality statistics: totals for 2000 and 2001, New Zealand Health Information Service. Viewed online 26th September 2005 at: <http://www.nzhis.govt.nz/stats/mortstats-p.html>

⁵ Glantz S. Tobacco Money at the University of California. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. 2005, Vol. 171.

AGREEMENT

- The Cancer Society, as a health promoting organisation, seeks to promote tobacco control messages in every facet of our work and operation.
- In addition to the minimum legal duties under the Smoke-free Environments Act and its amendments, which require all internal areas of workplaces (including work vehicles) to be Smoke-free, the Cancer Society is committed to actively promoting Cancer Society grounds, activities and events as smoke-free. Individuals and organisations supporting the Cancer Society by hosting fundraising events in their workplace or community will be advised of the Cancer Society's no smoking policy and encouraged and supported to make their events smoke-free.
- The Cancer Society actively supports its paid staff to be smoke-free. For any existing paid staff who smoke (or who relapse and start smoking again), the Cancer Society will provide them with support to quit smoking (in the form of nicotine replacement therapy and cessation counselling).
- The Cancer Society will not knowingly:
 - Employ or collaborate with any outside agency or individual that represents the tobacco industry, related entities or individuals.
 - Solicit or accept sponsorship, donations, financial contributions or gifts from the tobacco industry, related entities or individuals.
 - Invest in the tobacco industry, related entities or individuals.
 - Work or collaborate with any organisation or agency which accepts funding or other kinds of support from the tobacco industry, related entities or individuals.

In implementing this policy, the Cancer Society will first seek to educate agencies and organisations about tobacco industry conduct and the conflict of interest the relationship presents with the aim of discouraging agencies from continuing their relationship with the tobacco industry.

- The Cancer Society will not grant funding to any researcher or institution who or which is receiving money from the tobacco industry or any of its agencies or subsidiaries. A statement to this effect will be included in any and all documentation relating to research funding by the Cancer Society, including contracts with researchers and research institutions. In implementing this policy, the Cancer Society will first seek to educate researchers and research institutions about tobacco industry conduct and the conflict of interest the relationship presents, with the aim of discouraging researchers and research institutions from continuing their relationship with the tobacco industry.
- Committee and board members, staff and volunteers:
 - will refrain from communicating or meeting in any formal capacity with representatives of the tobacco industry, or their agents without prior unanimous approval from the Chief Executives Advisory Committee and in line with the international ethical guidelines for meeting with the tobacco industry .⁶
 - will ensure they do not have any professional or organisational links with individuals or organisations where such links support tobacco industry activities.
- Tobacco products shall not be sold on the Cancer Society premises or at external events hosted by the Cancer Society under any circumstances.
- Once agreed to, the policy will be disseminated to divisional CEO's whose responsibility it will be to ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and are fully implementing it. The policy will be included on the Society's national office website and in Cancer Society staff orientation as a minimum.

⁶ Dr. Judith Mackay and Ms. Mary Assunta, 'Ethical Guidelines for Meeting with the Tobacco Industry'. Viewed July 15th 2006 at: <http://ftc.org/documents/Ethical%20Guidelines.pdf>.