

Smoking hazards

CIGARETTE smoking is a causal factor in coronary heart disease, chronic lung disease, peripheral vascular disease and certain cancers.

Much of the effort of health care workers is to treat and support persons who suffer from these conditions. In many instances treatment only provides symptomatic relief and palliation of advanced conditions.

In addition to the amelioration of these chronic conditions, it is essential to prevent the root causes in the first place. In the case of cigarette smoking, this requires political action as well as attempts to change individual behavior.

The NSW Minister for Health, Mr Brereton, and the State Government are to be commended for their decision to ban the advertising of cigarettes and tobacco products from facilities owned by the State Government.

It accords with the World Health Organisation's description of cigarette smoking as one of the world's most preventable diseases.

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