



New South Wales

Minister for Justice
 Minister for Juvenile Justice
 Minister for Emergency Services
 Minister for Lands
 Minister for Rural Affairs
 Minister for Volunteering
 Leader of the House - Legislative Council

16 November 2006

EXPERTS AND STATES SUPPORT NSW CALL FOR REDUCED FIRE RISK CIGARETTES

State Plan Goal: Keeping People Safe

NSW would have the support of all States and a collective of eminent Australians tomorrow in calling on the Commonwealth to make Reduced Fire Risk (RFR) cigarettes mandatory, Emergency Services Minister Tony Kelly said today.

Mr Kelly said the States would urge the Commonwealth to adopt a national standard for RFR cigarettes at the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management meeting in Adelaide.

"The NSW Government has proudly led the fight for the introduction of a fire safety standard for Australian cigarettes to help keep people safe," Mr Kelly said.

"This is a simple but effective fire prevention and safety measure that can save lives, millions of dollars in property damage and a great deal of the emergency services' time and resources.

"Early evidence from New York State, where these cigarettes have been introduced, is encouraging."

RFR cigarettes are designed to self-extinguish, rather than keep burning.

"In Australia more than 4500 fires each year are caused by cigarette ignitions and the National Coroners Information system shows that 67 people died in fires directly attributed to cigarettes between 2000 and 2005," he said.

"To help prevent more deaths it is vital that this recognised and tested standard is quickly adopted to reduce the risk of cigarette ignited fires.

"All that remains is for the Federal Government to agree to introduce the necessary regulations under the Commonwealth *Trade Practices Act* to support this national standard and make these cigarettes mandatory in Australia.

"All Australian states support it, firefighters across the country support it and now a coalition of prominent Australians from fire control, health and scientific backgrounds has also added its support for this national mandate.

"This includes the welcome support of three Australians of the Year – Professor Ian Frazer (2006), Sir Gustav Nossal (2000) and Dr Fiona Wood (2005)," Mr Kelly said.

Media Contact Fergus Taylor 0408 2000 78