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## **Government announces smoking bans in all inside workplaces to be effective in 2007**

Today the Premier announced that the government will legislate to ban smoking in enclosed workplaces – this includes licensed clubs. The legislation will be introduced next year, and be effective on 1 July 2007.

ClubsVIC has been advised that the ban is in-doors only and outside areas will not be affected.

The NSW government made a simultaneous announcement that smoking will be completely banned in 2007. In NSW there is a complicated phasing-in procedure that culminates with the total ban in 2007.

To date, the Victorian government has not outlined any phasing-in, but the Premier advised that the government will be working with the industry to assist in the implementation of the ban. This may mean that a gradual phase-in is intended.

Consultation with stakeholders will commence immediately. ClubsVIC will work towards providing enough scope for clubs to safely accommodate both smokers and non-smokers in-doors, and that the definition of “out-doors” is not restrictive, and that any phasing-in is as non-intrusive as possible.

Attached to this circular is a copy of the ClubsVIC media release of this morning. For more information, please contact ClubsVIC on 9349 2909.

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**Clubs Victoria Inc.**

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CLUBS VICTORIA INC.

## URGENT MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

12 October 2004

ClubsVIC, the umbrella organisation for licensed community clubs in the state, today criticised the Victorian government's announcement of total smoking bans in 2007.

Executive Director, Margaret Kearney, said that clubs are community assets and meeting places, they are one of the last bastions of "connectiveness" in society. Totally banning smoking in the clubs will alienate many people for whom the club is their lifeline or whole way of life. It is where they play sport, interact with friends and stay vital. For these people, banning smoking in their club becomes a punishment for their smoking addiction. The ban will not stop these people smoking, it will stop them attending their clubs and being active members of their community. Instead these people will stay home where they can smoke and lose social contact.

Clubs want to be able to accommodate all their patrons safely. Smoking is not illegal, and clubs should be allowed to provide safe smoking spaces within their confines, - safe for staff and safe for non-smoking members & guests. "It is demonstrably possible to provide safe smoking areas, and clubs should be at liberty to provide such areas for their members & guests" said Margaret Kearney.

This ban will not result in less smoking. It will result in less people attending clubs and less jobs in the licensed hospitality industry in Victoria. The results from New York and Ireland show this. In New York the economic impact has been such that the law has been wound back to allow for exemptions for economic hardship. "I am at a loss to understand what figures the social-engineers are reading when they say that smoking bans have a positive impact on business" says Ms Kearney said, "the reality is that many businesses are now closed and many jobs have been lost because of smoking bans". The Victorian smoke-free gaming laws demonstrate this."

The licensed hospitality industry and its employees, and community clubs in particular, have been sacrificed in this campaign. ClubsVIC believes that a collaborative approach which provides for safety and choice will lead to the best outcomes for smokers, workers and patrons.

ClubsVIC will be working with the government through the consultation period to provide clubs with the opportunity to safely accommodate their smoking members & guests indoors, and to protect their workers.

**ENDS**

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