Legislation passed to ban smoking in cars with children

30 October 2014

Landmark legislation to ban smoking in cars carrying children under 16 has today passed in the Northern Territory Parliament.

"The Country Liberals Government is committed to reducing the impact of smoking in our community," Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said.

"It's definitely time the Northern Territory strengthened measures to protect children from the harms of second-hand smoke in cars.

"These amendments to the Tobacco Control Act will ensure that Territory children are protected from the harms of second-hand smoke whilst travelling in a motor vehicle.

"All other jurisdictions have introduced legislation to protect children from this harm.

"Research shows that the air quality when smoking in a car is harmful for children, even with the windows down.

"The proposed offence will attract an on-the-spot fine of two penalty points ($298) for the driver or any passengers who break the law and this will be enforced by NT Police.

"If a person elects not to pay the fine and have the matter dealt with by a court, the proposed maximum fine that may be imposed by a magistrate is 20 penalty points ($2980).

"This is another significant reform from a Country Liberals Government that is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Territorians.”

The offence will take effect from December 1.

Media Contact: Jack Cranwell - 0428 574 943