Minister for Health

BAN ON SMOKING IN CARS WITH CHILDREN

12 February, 2014

The Country Liberals Government has made yet another landmark decision to boost the health of Territorians, and has moved to ban smoking in cars carrying children under 16.

Work is currently underway drafting amendments to the Tobacco Control Act to give effect to the Government’s decision.

All other jurisdictions have introduced legislation to protect children from the harms of second-hand smoke whilst travelling in a motor vehicle.

The Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said it was time the Northern Territory strengthened measures to protect children from the harms of second-hand smoke.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Territorians,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Unfortunately, when it comes to protecting kids in cars from smoke we have been at the back of the pack.

“No longer will the health needs of Territory kids be placed second to those of other Aussie kids.

“This sends a strong message to the public that smoking in cars with kids is no longer acceptable in a modern, vibrant and healthy community.

“It is another historic announcement from an engaged and energized Country Liberals Government.”

The confined space of a motor vehicle dramatically increases the harmful effect of second-hand smoke, with research showing that the air quality when smoking in a car, even with the windows down.

“The Northern Territory has unacceptably high rates of smoking among its adult population and the potential exposure of young people to second hand smoke remains a significant concern,” Mrs Lambley said.

The amendments currently being drafted are expected to be introduced in the May sittings of Parliament for passage in August.

Media Contact:
Phoebe Stewart 0438885774