Robyn Lambley
Minister for Health

Legislation introduced to ban smoking in cars with children

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The Country Liberals Government has today introduced landmark legislation in Parliament to ban smoking in cars carrying children under 16.

“This is another significant reform from a Country Liberals Government that is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Territorians,” Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said.

“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.

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

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

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

“The former Labor Government left this issue unchecked for years, but we want to send a strong message that smoking in cars with kids is no longer acceptable.

“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).

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to reducing the impact of smoking in our community.

“We have committed more than $700,000 this year to enhance anti-smoking awareness and the work of the NT’s Quit support team.

“We were the first jurisdiction to ban smoking in Territory prisons, and have also banned smoking for visitors and staff at all NT hospitals.
“We are always looking at innovative ways to tackle the smoking rate in the Territory, and will continue to develop effective strategies to combat this health issue.”

The amendments to the Tobacco Control Act will be debated in the October sittings.

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