

The Hon. (Bob) Robert John Carr
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carr

Healthy Cities Illawarra was delighted to hear your promise last October to legislate pubs and clubs to be smoke free by July 2007. You made this promise in order to protect the long-term health of workers in pubs and clubs.

It disappoints me, then, to learn that the Hotel's Association is pressuring your government to soften the proposed regulation by allowing smoking in a room that is more than 25% open to the outside. Such a room is obviously enclosed, and passive smoking would continue to be harmful for workers, contrary to your promise last October.

This is more serious in light of new evidence showing that exposure to passive smoke is nearly as harmful to cardiovascular health as actively smoking. Additionally, anecdotal evidence from pub and club owners and operators in the Illawarra area suggests the legislation would have been more easily adopted had it necessitated a total ban immediately.

By renegeing on your promise you would clearly be letting down the tens of thousands of people who supported a total ban of smoking in pubs and clubs.

Please act to stop the decision to amend the regulation to allow smoking in rooms more than 25% open.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Grounds
Community Environmental Health Officer