

The Secretary
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
Via email - airpollutioninquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

A/ GPO Box 1491
Sydney, NSW 2001
P/029222 6200
F/02 9221 0438
E/TSANZoffice@thoracic.org.au
W/thoracic.org.au

RE: Inquiry seeking submissions on the impact of air pollution

To Whom it may concern,

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) is a health promotion charity whose mission is to lead, support and enable all health workers and researchers who aim to prevent, cure and relieve disability caused by lung disease. TSANZ is the only Peak Body in Australia that represents all health professionals working in all fields of respiratory health.

TSANZ has a membership base of 1800 individual members from a wide range of health and research disciplines. TSANZ is a leading provider of evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of respiratory disease in Australia and New Zealand, undertakes a large amount of professional education and training, is responsible for significant research administration, and coordinates an accredited respiratory laboratory program.

TSANZ is writing in strong support of the Asthma Australia (AA) submission to the Inquiry into Air Pollution in Victoria. AA have outlined important recommendations to tackle the impact of air pollution on health outcomes. These include:

- taking action to assist vulnerable people who are socio-economic disadvantaged and/or have lung and other health conditions, by providing financial support for housing repair/maintenance programs and/or the purchase of effective air purifiers for high exposures
- phasing out woodfire heaters in Victoria with the introduction of a replacement subsidy and ban on the installation of new woodfire heaters
- providing funding to develop and implement an AirSmart public education campaign that is relevant, practical, and accessible to the wider community to improve environmental health literacy and facilitate the implementation of specific emission-reduction strategies
- installation of more air quality testing stations, especially in the Inner West region of Victoria which has some of the highest emissions from industry and transport
- to provide support to local institutions to upgrade facilities to reduce indoor air pollution
- taking steps to minimize the health impacts of hazard reduction burning through a co-ordinated response that informs local communities of planned burns well in advance and considers mechanical fuel load reduction

TSANZ stress that air pollution can cause adverse health effects even at low levels.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation, and we look forward to continuing the discussion about respiratory health issues in the future.

Sincerely,



Prof Bruce Thompson
TSANZ President