

TASKFORCESUBMISSION: submission

NAME: George Greenwood

POSITION: retired

ORGANISATION:

SUBMISSION1: This submission is as a result of the Norma Swan podcast broadcast today.

I think the gist of the subject is that a healthy population has many substantial beneficial effects: eg on our personal welfare, on the economy, freeing up resources for reallocation eg police, even tax cuts!

These effects must be quantifiable and demonstrable against all the counter arguments of the vested interests. The jobs lost in the tobacco and alcohol sectors should be more than compensated by spend/rebates resulting from the freeing up of the need to spend on self inflicted health deficiencies. That is unless the lobbies claim that the use of their product is a major component in expanding the health sector and I am sure that would be quickly laughed out of court.

Australia has been very successful in its efforts to reduce smoking but we are taking aboard a long term problem when we permit the immigration of smokers from countries which have less effective policies in effect to reduce smoking. Surely the immigration score card should take account of the long term factors of bring in people who smoke, with rigorous tests to ascertain the veracity of these declarations. The tobacco lobbyists must be delighted with the long term prospect of importing trained smokers.

This should be part of a whole raft of policies countering the use of legal but debilitating drugs. How about significant discounts by health funds to non smoking members, lower pharmaceutical benefits to the who do not maintain their fitness and have regular physical check ups.

On the other hand we need to educate and encourage everyone to adopt lifestyles which are conducive to reducing the health care costs and improving the population's well being. There can be no one size fits all in doing but a series of research programs which can determine the most effective way to change the hearts and minds of our many demographics. How about employing some of the tobacco lobbyists to design the programs - I like the idea of changing the poachers into gamekeepers or is it vice versa?

How about a competition the first smoke free communities of specific sizes say 5000, 10000, 20000 etc?

I wish you well in your efforts and look forward to hearing of many successes.

George Greenwood

PRIVACY: yes

SUBMIT: Submit