

TOBACCO COMPANIES' LINKS WITHIN AUSTRALIA (CHART 1) AND BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS (CHART 2)

The evidence summarised in this chronology is coded in three ways.

Evidence from public domain scientific research sources on tobacco and health or nicotine pharmacology that the tobacco industry should have known about is presented in plain type.

Evidence illustrating what the industry accepted or agreed to about tobacco and health or nicotine pharmacology in private correspondence or reports of meetings is shown in italics.

Evidence illustrating what the industry wrote or said in public settings such as on radio, television or newspapers; or submissions and letters to governments or politicians are shown in bold.

Summary of argument

- That since 1969, the three tobacco companies in Australia, collaborated to create a unified industry position on: health and smoking policies and research directions.
- That policies of Australian tobacco companies were influenced and/or approved by associated overseas companies.
- That a unified industry position in Australia was published and promoted on several occasions to influence governments and the public that there was a continuing controversy over smoking and health issues.

TOBACCO COMPANIES' LINKS WITHIN AUSTRALIA
CHART 1:

1969	
Three tobacco companies jointly produce position paper on 'health controversy' for health ministers	May 1969: The three tobacco companies WD&HO Wills, Rothmans of Pall Mall (Aust) and Philip Morris (Aust) produce an "Australian Tobacco Industry position paper on the health controversy" for the "information of Federal and State Health Ministers and Directors-General of Public Health". The paper dismisses the medical evidence and claims, "To concentrate wholly on cigarettes as the suspected major causative factor in lung cancer is, in the view of the Australian tobacco industry, both stultifying and unscientific"¹.
1970	
Jointly establish foundation to co-ordinate tobacco research	22 June 1970: The three tobacco companies sign a foundation deed formalising their joint charter for the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation. "The principal object of the Foundation shall be to support research into the relationship in Australia between tobacco smoking and human health and disease in its widest context"²
1972	
Jointly publish position paper refuting health claims	April 1972: "The Australian Cigarette Manufacturers" jointly published a "Position Paper on the Smoking Question" with claims that: "there are defects in the statistical case against cigarettes"; and that "research has not been able scientifically to substantiate indisputably the health claims made against cigarettes..."³.
1975	
Long standing collaboration between Australian tobacco companies	<i>22 October 1975: Philip Morris memo from A Whist regarding formation and composition of joint industry group "... to work specifically on the problem of Smoking and Health" and "...to remain in intense, day-to-day, contact on all political, media and medical developments concerning our case". "The members of the "Smoking and Health Group [Wills, Rothmans, PML and Amatil] have worked together for a number of years, and are on good personal terms"⁴.</i>
1976	
Wills says the three companies must act in complete concert over smoking problem	<i>July 1976: WD&HO Wills in a confidential document "A review of and recommendations of passive smoking and social acceptability of smoking" describe industry collaboration and their common goals. "There is a high degree of co-operation between the three domestic manufacturers on all such matters..". In January, 1975, a Co-ordinating Committee, comprising representatives of the three Australian manufacturers, was re-activated and they agreed to a joint industry policy and three objectives: "(i) Preserve an outward face of unanimity of approach to all problems and/or situations affecting the question of smoking and health. (ii) Agree on an overall Industry position and philosophy as a</i>

	<i>framework within which the Co-ordinating Committee will work. (iii) Accept the fact that smoking and health is an industry problem in the face of which the three companies must operate in complete concert</i> ⁵ ".
1977	
Joint submission to senate denying evidence on smoking	19 April 1977: The Australian Cigarette Manufacturers present a joint submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare. Attached is an opening statement by Mr H. Widdup who claims that "...the industry knows of no such experimental evidence which indicates that smoking causes diseases and the issue of causation remains controversial and unresolved" ⁶ .
1978	
Tobacco Institute of Australia established	1 December 1978: The Tobacco Institute of Australia was established in Melbourne with Mr Bryan Simpson as the Director. The objectives included: to gain recognition for the beneficial aspects of smoking by representing the industry on questions concerning smoking and health to federal and State Governments and to the public through television, radio and the press. ⁷
1983	
Joint publication on the controversy	May 1983: The Tobacco Institute of Australia publishes a small booklet for public distribution outlining the industry's joint position on "The smoking and health controversy...Why more research is needed" ⁸ .
1988	
The three tobacco companies jointly fund a tobacco research foundation	1 February 1988: A letter from members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation published in the Medical Journal of Australia records their unanimous view that smoking causes cancer and that the Foundation is jointly and equally funded by members of the tobacco industry in Australia. "The three major tobacco companies provide about \$500,000 annually, which is distributed by the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation to support research in this area" ⁹ .
1991	
<i>Wills (Aust) advises industry about its position on smoking after approval by BATCo</i>	<i>20 September 1991: George Symmes (Wills Aust) advises industry members Ken Pimblett (TIA), Peter Alexander (Rothmans Pall Mall) and Phil Francis (Philip Morris Aust) that BATCo has approved their position on smoking. That is, "In our opinion science has not established that smoking causes disease and it is our view that further scientific research is necessary to address a number of inconsistencies in the statistical and biological evidence"</i> ¹⁰ .
<i>TIA reminds three companies of Industry Plan and a uniform smoking policy</i>	<i>1 October 1991: TIA memo on "Primary Smoking" from K Pimblett to Australian industry members, Rothmans, Philip Morris and Wills says "One of the issues in our Industry Plan relates to primary smoking and our objective of formulating a uniform industry position"</i> ¹¹ .

¹ Australian Tobacco Industry, 5/69. Position Paper on the Health Controversy www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2025036939/86

² Philip Morris, Wills & Rothmans, 22/6/70. Australian Tobacco Research Foundation Charter www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2024956882

³ Australian Cigarette Manufacturers, 5/69. Position Paper on the Smoking Question www.pmdocs.com

⁴ Whist A. (PML) 22/10/75 Some notes on the tobacco manufacturers' govt and public contact program and our involvement www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2024258457/60

⁵ WD&HO Wills (Aust) Ltd 7/76, A Review of and recommendations of passive smoking and social acceptability of smoking www.pmdocs.com 2025025461/80

⁶ Widdup, H Opening Statement by Mr H Widdup, 19/4/77 www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2024956802/

⁷ Covington M Background Information for visit of Mr Bryan Simpson, Director Tobacco Institute of Australia Bates No. 1000219634/5

⁸ Tobacco Institute of Australia, May 1983, The Smoking and Health Controversy...why more research is needed.

⁹ Shaw J, Letter to the editor, Australian Tobacco Research Foundation, Medical Journal of Australia, 1/288, Vol. 148 pg 152

¹⁰ Symmes, G (Wills Aust) memo to TIA and cc to Rothmans, Philip Morris. Primary Smoking Position www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2504079075

¹¹ Pimblett K (TIA) 1/10/91 Memo to Rothmans, Philip Morris, Wills. Primary Smoking www.pmdocs.com Bates No. 2504079074