

31 October 2003

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE BY
HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD AND HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY**

**YOUTHS CAUGHT SMOKING
ARE COUNSELLED BEFORE PAYING FINE**

1 With effect from 1 November 03, second and third time underaged smoking offenders, or youths under the age of 18 years caught smoking, will be conditionally required to attend smoking cessation counselling to have their offences compounded. The aim is to motivate and equip these youths with information and skills to successfully quit smoking for good.

2 The Singapore Youth Tobacco Survey 2000, conducted by the Health Promotion Board (HPB), showed that among current smokers*, 63% wanted to stop smoking. Most (80%) current smokers (79% males and 82% females) had tried to quit unsuccessfully at least once in the past year.

**Definition of current smokers - one who smoked on at least one day in the past 30 days.*

3 Underaged smoking offenders caught for the **first time** by their schools/teachers or officers from the Singapore Police Force, National Parks (Park Rangers), the National Environment Agency and the Health Sciences Authority will be issued a Notice of Composition allowing them to compound their fine of \$30.

4 **Second and third time** underaged offenders will be issued a Notice of Composition requiring them to attend two smoking cessation counselling sessions before they are allowed to pay the compound fine of \$30.

5 The youth is free to select a smoking cessation clinic from the list provided (see Annex A) with the Notice of Composition. The two counselling sessions must be certified completed by the cessation clinic within 45 days of the receipt of the

Notice. Upon certification, the youth should make payment for the compound fine within 15 days.

6 If the youth fails to comply with the above requirements, he/she will be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$300.

7 The level of involvement of parents or guardians in the counselling process will be assessed after evaluating and reviewing this cessation counselling initiative.

8 For clarification on the smoking cessation counselling programme, the public may contact HPB's toll free **QuitLine at 1-800-438-2000** (operating hours: weekdays from 8.30am to 5.00pm and Saturdays from 8.30am to 1.00pm). In addition, underaged smoking offenders and/or their parents may call QuitLine should they need more information and support on how to quit smoking.

9 Underaged smoking offenders and/or their parents may seek clarification on the Notice of Composition, its terms and conditions via the contact details available in each Notice of Composition, or via email to hsa_info@hsa.gov.sg and the officers will contact them directly.

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List of Participating Smoking Cessation Clinics

The complete counselling programme for each underaged smoking offender consists of 2 minimum sessions.

National Healthcare Group Polyclinics						
S/N	Branch	Address	Tel No.	Session Day	Operating Hours	Total Cost for 2 sessions
1	Ang Mo Kio	Blk 723 Ang Mo Kio Ave 8 #01-4136	64582116	Fri	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
2	Bukit Batok	50 Bukit Batok West Ave 3	65603400	Wed	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
3	Choa Chu Kang	2 Teck Whye Crescent	67659659	Tue	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
4	Clementi	Blk 451 Clementi Ave 3 #02-307	67775051	Thur	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
5	Hougang	89 Hougang Ave 4	63862377	Tue	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
6	Jurong	190 Jurong East Ave 1	65623011	Mon	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
7	Toa Payoh	2003 Toa Payoh Lor 8	62596833	Thur	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
8	Woodlands	10 Woodlands St 31	63677880	Wed	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
9	Yishun	100 Yishun Central	67577790	Wed	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00

SingHealth Polyclinics						
S/N	Branch	Address	Tel No.	Session Day	Operating Hours	Total Cost for 2 sessions
1	Bedok	Blk 212 Bedok North St 1 #03-147	62436759	Mon	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
2	Bukit Merah	Blk 163 Bukit Merah Central #04-3565	63775225	Fri	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
3	Geylang	21 Geylang East Central	68422445	Thur	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
4	Outram	No. 3 Second Hospital Ave Level 2 HPB	64353157	Mon	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
5	Marine Parade	Blk 80 Marine Parade #01-792	63425027	Fri	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
6	Queenstown	51 Margaret Drive	64719537/ 64719538	Thur	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
7	Tampines	1 Tampines St 41	65877252/ 67864070	Tue/ Fri	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00
8	Pasir Ris	1 Pasir Ris Drive 4 #01-11	65855417/ 65855408	Wed	2.00 - 4.00 pm	\$8.00

See next page
for other service
providers

Other Service Providers

S/N	Clinics/ Centres	Address	Tel No.	Session Day	Operating Hours	Total Cost for 2 sessions
1	Quit4Life Service	Health Promotion Board 3 Second Hospital Ave Singapore 168937	1800 438 2000	Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri	2.00– 6.00pm	\$8.00
				Sat	10.00am – 6.00pm	
2	Institute of Mental Health	10 Buangkok Green	63892200/ 63892133	Tue	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Free
				Thu	3.00 - 4.00 pm	
3	Alexandra Hospital	Clinic J, 378 Alexandra Rd	63793330/1	Mon	9.00 am - 12.00 pm	\$23.00
				Wed	2.00 - 5.00 pm	
4	Tan Tock Seng Hospital, 11 Jalan TanTock Seng	Medical Centre Suite 2B	63578011/8010	Sat	9.00 - 12.00 pm	\$22.90
5	Department of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine	Singapore General Hospital, Outram Road	63214377	Tue, Wed & Thu	8.00 am - 10.00 am	\$82.00
				Tue	2.00 - 5.00 pm	
6	Singapore Cancer Society	15 Enggor St #04- 01/04 Realty Centre	64215804	Subject to appointment	2.30 - 5.00 pm	Free