

**6 December 2007**

## **Cigarette price increase designed to improve public health - Kennedy**

A 30 cent increase on the excise duty on cigarettes is designed to deter people from taking up smoking, and to encourage those already smoking to give up the habit, according to Dublin North Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Kennedy.

"The move, announced in Budget 2008 is designed to promote a more health conscious society," said Deputy Kennedy.

"This increase in the price of cigarettes is part of a larger Government policy to foster a sense of individual responsibility to health," he added.

"The most effective way to maximize good health is to prevent illness and to do that we must do everything in our power to discourage people from taking up a habit that is known to be so harmful to our health."

"The price increase should also have an effect on future Government spending on Health, as the long-term effects of smoking become less prevalent. Ten or twenty years down the line, as fewer people smoke, I hope to see a sharp reduction in the number of people suffering from smoking-related diseases, such as lung cancer."

"The move follows the abolition of packs of 10 cigarettes earlier this year."

"I am supportive of this move and I am hopeful that, along with other measures introduced by this Government such as the smoking ban, this measure will help deter people from smoking," said Deputy Kennedy.