

## New Zealand U-turns on planned smoking ban

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New Zealand's new conservative government has abandoned a groundbreaking plan to ban smoking in the country. Last year, New Zealand became the first country in the world to introduce legislation to phase out the sale of

cigarettes. Then leader Jacinda Ardern introduced measures to phase out smoking by preventing new generations of young adults from purchasing cigarettes. The policy was hailed around the world as a bold move to improve the health of the nation. However, the new Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, has controversially done a U-turn and junked Ms Ardern's plans. He said the ban was unaffordable and that the country needed the tax revenues from tobacco sales.

The radical smoking ban was a landmark decision that prompted other countries to reconsider their public health policies. The British government followed suit by announcing laws that will make it illegal for youngsters to buy cigarettes over the coming years. A spokesperson said the UK wants "to deliver smoke-free generations". Canada has recently become the first country to require health warnings be put on individual cigarettes. Anti-tobacco groups are up in arms over Mr Luxon's about-turn. One group said: "Turning the tide on harmful products that are entrenched in society cannot be done by individuals or even communities. It takes good and brave population-level policies."

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [ft.com](http://ft.com) / [nzherald.co.nz](http://nzherald.co.nz)

### Writing

There should be fines for people who smoke. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

New Zealand / conservative / groundbreaking / smoking / ban / cigarettes / U-turns / decision / public health / laws / health warnings / being up in arms / population

### True / False

- 1) New Zealand's leader has a groundbreaking plan. T / F
- 2) There are two countries that have smoking bans. T / F
- 3) Phasing out smoking was seen worldwide as being a bold move. T / F
- 4) The smoking ban U-turn was because the government needs taxes. T / F
- 5) The U.K. decided to follow the previous New Zealand's leaders lead. T / F
- 6) The article says Canada will also ban individuals from smoking. T / F
- 7) The anti-smoking lobby is up in arms about the smoking ban U-turn. T / F
- 8) An anti-smoking group suggested the government needed to be brave. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>abandoned</b>   | a. historic        |
| 2. <b>legislation</b> | b. need            |
| 3. <b>measures</b>    | c. praised         |
| 4. <b>hailed</b>      | d. dropped         |
| 5. <b>revenues</b>    | e. courageous      |
| 6. <b>landmark</b>    | f. against the law |
| 7. <b>illegal</b>     | g. actions         |
| 8. <b>require</b>     | h. established     |
| 9. <b>entrenched</b>  | i. laws            |
| 10. <b>brave</b>      | j. receipts        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What damage does smoking do to people's health?
- c) What should the legal age to smoke be?
- d) Should health warnings be put on every cigarette sold?
- e) When was the last time you were up in arms over something?
- f) How can we stop young people from taking up smoking?
- g) What advice do you have for a smoker who wants to quit?
- h) What questions would you like to ask New Zealand's leader?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. abandoned a groundbreaking           | a. world as a bold move     |
| 2. the first country in the world to    | b. to buy cigarettes        |
| 3. The policy was hailed around the     | c. from tobacco sales       |
| 4. He said the ban was                  | d. by announcing laws       |
| 5. the country needed the tax revenues  | e. plan to ban smoking      |
| 6. The radical smoking ban was          | f. on individual cigarettes |
| 7. The British government followed suit | g. on harmful products      |
| 8. make it illegal for youngsters       | h. unaffordable             |
| 9. require health warnings be put       | i. a landmark decision      |
| 10. Turning the tide                    | j. introduce legislation    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of smoking?
- What do you think of the smell of cigarette smoke?
- Should New Zealand have kept the ban in place?
- Why do people smoke?
- Where should smoking be banned?
- Will smoking be a thing in 50 years from now?
- What smoking laws are in place in your country?
- Do countries need tax revenues from tobacco sales?

## Spelling

- introduce gnalsioelti to phase out the sale
- new otinenegsar of young adults
- The policy was elihda around the world
- Luxon has ovlnolsitrcraery done a U-turn
- He said the ban was bffdaeronlua
- the country needed the tax eeusrvne
- The aaclrid smoking ban
- decision that tmdppore other countries
- ninuaqocnn laws that will make it illegal
- warnings be put on iuadniildv cigarettes
- products that are ecnhetrend in society
- done by individuals or even nimteiumsoc

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. g	4. c	5. j
6. a	7. f	8. b	9. h	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Smoking

You think smoking is the worst bad habit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bad habits aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): being late, procrastinating or being glued to screens.

### Role B – Being Late

You think being late is the worst bad habit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bad habits aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): smoking, procrastinating or being glued to screens.

### Role C – Procrastinating

You think procrastinating is the worst bad habit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bad habits aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): being late, smoking or being glued to screens.

### Role D – Being Glued to Screens

You think being glued to screens is the worst bad habit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their bad habits aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): being late, procrastinating or smoking.

## Speaking – Bad Habits

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst habits at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Smoking           | • Procrastinating        |
| • Being late        | • Slouching              |
| • Biting your nails | • Overspending           |
| • Oversleeping      | • Being glued to screens |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.