



## Konrad Jamrozik

Clinician, epidemiologist, and advocate for tobacco control. He was born in Leigh Creek, South Australia, on May 2, 1955, and died of cancer in Adelaide, South Australia, on March 24, 2010.

Earlier this year the Australian Government made a bold move to reduce tobacco use: raising the tax on cigarettes by 25% overnight and introducing plans to force tobacco companies to sell their products in plain packages. Both initiatives would certainly have won the support of Konrad Jamrozik, one of the country's boldest and most determined campaigners against tobacco. From confronting former Prime Minister John Howard about the issue on live radio, to producing crucial estimates of the deaths due to passive smoking, Jamrozik was renowned for his uncompromising approach to advocacy. His death, one colleague wrote, "feels like public health in Australia has lost a limb".

Jamrozik entered medical school aged 16 years, and studied first in Adelaide and then in Tasmania, graduating in 1977. After a year as an intern in Hobart, he won a scholarship to Oxford University where his doctoral thesis focused on strategies to promote smoking cessation in general practice, bringing him into contact with epidemiologists Richard Peto and Sir Richard Doll. "He certainly found his calling in Oxford—Doll and Peto were powerful influences", says his friend, Melbourne obstetrician Shaun Brennecke. By 1983, Jamrozik was briefly lecturer in Community Medicine at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, where he was also a clinical assistant on the leprosy service.

During this time, he and his first wife, Criena Fitzgerald had a son, Euzebiusz (Zeb). 5 years later they had a daughter, Harriet. In 1984, Jamrozik moved to the University of Western Australia to take up a research fellowship in epidemiology, eventually being promoted to Professor of Public Health in early 2000. "His most significant research has been in the epidemiology and prevention of vascular disease, especially heart disease and stroke", says Judy Straton from the Western Australian Department of Health. "A key example is the Perth Community Stroke Study, which demonstrated for the first time that the lifestyle factors known to increase the risk of heart disease also applied to stroke."

From 2000 until 2004, he held the chair in Primary Care Epidemiology at Imperial College, London. "It is increasingly apparent that we have to go beyond the individual patient, beyond the individual doctor and beyond the individual practice and primary care team to think about delivery of best possible health care to whole communities", he said at the time. Jamrozik later returned to Australia, moving to Brisbane as Professor of Evidence-based Health Care at the University of Queensland, then in 2007 to the University of Adelaide where he became Head of the School of Population Health and Clinical Practice. In that year, he and his second wife, Lesley Walker, had twin sons Aleksander and Magnus.

As a researcher, Jamrozik published more than 280 papers, always maintaining his clinical work as well. Internationally, he was involved in WHO's MONICA project, which monitors cardiovascular disease risk factors in 22 countries. He always stood for scientific rigour, ethical research behaviour, and respect for all, his colleagues say. Leon Flicker, a long-term clinical collaborator and director of the Western Australian Centre for Healthy Ageing, put it this way: "Konrad would always take the time to explain the importance of scientific rigour to everyone involved—from the clerical staff to the most senior of his colleagues. No stone of ideas was left unturned; from the smallest nuance of methodology to any big picture item, Konrad was there to make sure that all things were considered."

He was a keen cyclist and rower, a vegetarian and, of course, a non-smoker. He had a reputation for being gruff, but this was balanced by a wicked sense of humour and, says Brennecke, "an understanding of human frailty". It was a source of frustrating irony to him that he had been struck by cancer—a disease he spent his life treating and preventing. Jamrozik was awarded Life Membership of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, the Inaugural President's Award from the National Heart Foundation of Australia, and a special Research Assistance grant for Outstanding Teachers from the University of Western Australia. Jamrozik is survived by his wife Lesley and his four children.

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