

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:	

24 June 2024

Committee Secretary
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

To the Committee Secretary,

Re: Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) thanks the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

The ADF delivers evidence-based approaches to minimise alcohol and other drug harm. We recognise the power of strong communities and the important role they play in preventing problems occurring in the first place. A community-centric approach is at the heart of everything we do.

In response to Queensland Health's consultation on the proposed Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act reform, the ADF expressed support for the amendments which aim to restrict the supply of unregulated vaping products through retail outlets, given significant concerns regarding widespread sales of vaping products containing nicotine by sellers operating with little to no oversight.¹

The ADF strongly supports these amendments as part of the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill*, as the sale of these products to young people has emerged as a key public health and regulatory concern.

The ADF would also like to reiterate our support for measures that aim to ensure that young people experiencing nicotine dependence can access vaping products as a smoking cessation tool.

As discussed in our Queensland Health consultation response, the ADF is concerned that under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*, possession of vaping products containing nicotine without a prescription remains an offence.

The ADF acknowledges and supports Queensland's recent introduction of the Police Drug Diversion Program for possession of small amounts of illicit drugs, which will cover possession of a nicotine vaping product without prescription. However, we note that criminalisation of health issues like vaping have been proven ineffective at preventing and reducing use and lead to further harms for individuals affected. The ADF therefore recommends that possession of vaping products containing nicotine is not criminalised.

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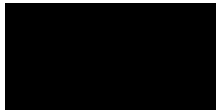


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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or clarification of these comments.

Sincerely,



Chloe Bernard

Senior Policy Officer

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References

1. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Testing of nicotine vaping products - TGA Laboratories testing report. 2022. Available from: <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/publication/tga-laboratory-testing-reports/testing-nicotine-vaping-products>.