

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

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Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
Parliament House
George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

25th June 2024

Dear Committee Members,

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

We appreciate the opportunity to take part in the consultation and **we would like to offer our support for the amendments put forward** in the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 including the change of definitions, the addition of new offences, increase of penalties, creation of powers and other minor amendments to support enforcement.

Lung Foundation Australia and the Australian Council on Smoking and Health commend the Queensland Government in amending the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (vaping) and Other Legislation Act to ensure Queensland can appropriately enforce the Federal Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping reforms) Bill 2024 – passed 27th June 2024. **We agree that strong and decisive action is needed as a matter of urgency to address the high levels of e-cigarette use among children, young adults and non-smokers.** Strengthening regulations on e-cigarettes and novel and emerging products is a key priority outlined in the NTS and we applaud the Queensland Government in implementing additional measures to further restrict the availability and use of e-cigarettes in line with action 9.1.

We also reaffirm our support for the amendments relating to tobacco and highlight the ongoing importance of tobacco control and enforcement.

Tobacco is the leading cause of death and disability in Australia and around the world with 76% of the total disease burden in Australia due to lung cancer, and 73% due to COPD.

Nearly 1 in 3 Australians have a lung disease including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, and asthma. In 2020, QLD reported 3,006 cases of lung cancer and alarmingly 1,953 deaths.

The Queensland Government has made a commitment to the National Preventive Health Strategy, and National Tobacco Strategy, and play a key role in leading public health reforms and protecting the health of Queenslanders. We again applaud the government on the introduction of a positive tobacco licencing scheme through amendment of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 last September. We also want to commend the significant efforts of Queensland Health to appropriately prepare fit and proper retailers and wholesalers ahead of the 1 September 2024 new requirements for selling smoking products in Queensland. We strongly believe that the additional amendments proposed in this Bill will further strengthen and streamline enforcement efforts.

Additional recommendation for future action: We recommend that the Queensland Government amend the *Electoral Act 1992* to include the banning of political donations from both the tobacco and vaping industry. This has already been done in New South Wales, with additional jurisdictions exploring opportunities to protect public health and the political system from industry interference. Whilst we acknowledge it is not within scope of this Act or consultation, we seek to raise this opportunity with the Health and Environment Committee members and reiterate that Australia is a signatory to the FCTC, which states that public policy should be free from influence from tobacco industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback for the Queensland Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. We strongly support swift passage and implementation of these amendments and look forward to continuing to work together to help reduce rates of smoking and vaping and to protect the health of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



Mark Brooke
Chief Executive Officer



Laura Hunter
Co-Chief Executive Officer