



14/08/2023

Health and Environment Committee

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Chair,

Recently the Mansfield Electorate Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for 2023 advised me of their concerns surrounding the current issues of vaping in our schools and communities.

This council comprises of student leaders in Year 6 and Year 12 from both State and Private Schools within the Mansfield Electorate. These leaders all have an interest in policy, government and speaking up on behalf of their peers.

The students were made aware of the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry into reducing rates of E-Cigarette use in Queensland. Although they understand submissions for this inquiry have now closed, they wished to offer their support and suggestions.

The YAC identified the devastating health risks and impacts associated with vaping and e-cigarettes which influenced their suggestion of introducing high taxes on the purchasing of vapes. This they believe will act as a deterrent for all consumers as the price increases making the vapes less accessible. The group commented on and commended the State Government for introducing such prevention for tobacco cigarettes.

Similarly, the students discussed introducing measures seen in the packaging of tobacco cigarettes for e-cigarette packaging. The Tobacco Plain Packaging Act mandates all cigarette packaging demonstrate the harmful impacts of smoking tobacco which turns consumers away due to its unesthetic packaging. E-cigarettes can currently be purchased in various colours and flavours which are 'socially acceptable' and appealing to others unlike tobacco cigarettes, hence, influencing others to participate in the deadly habit socially.

Furthermore, it was noted that vaping is a habit which has reached our school students in both primary and secondary schools. The students admired the work of schools who introduced smoke detectors in the bathrooms, however, suggested these be made accessible through the State Government for all schools. Students also identified the need for more education for students regarding the long-term impacts vaping will have on the individual consumer and the people around them.

Finally, the concept of banning vaping and e-cigarettes all together was also discussed. The group justified this suggestion with the New Zealand legislation of banning disposable vapes where consumers of vaping must hold a doctor's certificate to allow the purchasing of vapes.

The Mansfield Electorate YAC and I trust that you will make informed decisions when it comes to the issues of vaping and e-cigarettes, especially when considering the impact it is having on our schools and young people.

The students wish you all the best during the progression of this much needed inquiry and look forward to a Bill being presented to Parliament in the near future.

Warm Regards,



Corrine McMillan MP

**Member for Mansfield**