

Mr Aaron Harper MP

Chair, Health and Environment Committee

Queensland Parliament

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14 August, 2023

Dear Chair and Committee,

I write in relation to the current Inquiry into reducing the rates of e-cigarettes (vaping) in Queensland, and note that:

- a) The period for submissions has closed, and;
- b) That the committee will be in the final stages of endorsing its report prior to tabling on August 31.

However, I felt it prudent to raise with you a recent issue that's occurred in our community, which is an increased number of tobacco and vape retailers opening stores in close proximity to schools.

Residents, in particular those who are part of the school communities, have become increasingly frustrated by a sudden increase in retailers opening within a short walk to primary and high schools.

While the inquiry focused substantively on understanding the harm associated with vaping and looking at broader structural reform including increased education and the regulatory environment, I did commit to constituents that I would raise with the Committee the issue of retail proximity to schools and childcare centers. I ask that the Committee consider any potential reform that would provide communities assurances that these products won't be sold and marketed in spaces that are clearly child-centric, or in a manner that is clearly encouraging uptake and interest by young people.

By way of example, a tobacco and vape store has recently opened in Ashgrove just over 200 meters from a primary school. This store also sells Go Cards and gifts including items designed to look like child's toys. While I recognize that there are more complex motivations behind a person's uptake of cigarettes and vapes, the community expectation is that overt and covert attempts to market products to minors should be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration



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