

## Vaping - An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland

**Submission No:** 1

**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]

**Publication:**

**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

I am a year 12 Student at [REDACTED] who wishes to provide input for the inquiry regarding the approach taken by my school to handle vaping cases and the overall prevalence of vaping at my school. I will start with the matter by which [REDACTED] handles vaping reports. I have more than once referred teachers to a bathroom where I have seen vaping occurring, only for very little to be done regarding the situation. An example was when I was travelling between classes, I went to the bathroom and encountered a large congregation of vaping students. Immediately I located a teacher and requested assistance with the situation. Instead of actually entering the bathroom and investigating my report, the teacher merely stood out the front and asked if everything was ok in the bathroom, to which the vaping students responded that it was indeed ok. Despite clearly referring the teacher to the situation, he did virtually nothing to alleviate the problem. I have brought up complaints with higher members of the school such as the senior school principal and year level coordinators but despite their reassurances, nothing meaningful has been done. I have also noticed teachers respond to vaping by locking toilets up but I find this is completely ineffective at actually curbing vaping. For example the main area where I encounter vapers is in the bathroom in E block. When this bathroom is locked to deter vaping, there is another bathroom in N block that the students go to. Not only that but it inconveniences me as well as I have to travel further to use the bathroom as it is intended. On the prevalence of vaping, I can confirm that it is an extremely pressing issue amongst students my age. Almost every time I use toilets between class I see large groups of vaping students in the bathroom. The groups can range between two or three, up to larger groups of around ten students all gathered in the bathroom with vapes and phones. In regards to age groups, most appear to be in years 10 and 11, but I have seen year 12 students vaping. I am unaware of the vaping habits of lower grades because I do not use their bathrooms, which is the main location where vapers will gather during school hours. This can be incredibly discomfoting for students like myself who can feel intimidated by larger groups of vapers who act aggressive or rowdy, making it even harder to use the toilets normally. I have even seen vapers lock themselves in toilet cubicles to avoid scrutiny from other students and teachers. Overall, I have witnessed the prevalence of vapes firsthand in huge numbers amongst my fellow students.

