

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

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VAPING – AN INQUIRY INTO REDUCING RATES OF E-CIGARETTE USE IN QUEENSLAND

Nicotine vapes are illegal unless you have a prescription from a doctor.

The current illicit trade in nicotine vapes, as opposed to legal non-nicotine, has exploded in Queensland for well over 18 months now. It is estimated that over 350 outlets have opened selling illicit nicotine vapes and cigarettes in this time and these outlets are controlled by criminal gangs. Nicotine vapes are available to purchase in hundreds of outlets. Nicotine vapes are not put through any quality control checks therefore exposes consumers to substandard products and potentially placing more pressure on the Queensland health system. These same criminals are responsible for the sales of illegal vaping products to minors. They don't care who they sell to. It is imperative that Queensland Health and Police are provided with the necessary resources. The Queensland government should have a taskforce in place that can continue to raid these illicit outlets, on a regular basis, and confiscate illegal products and hand out serious fines followed by jail time for subsequent offences. A licensing system has been suggested for outlets selling tobacco and the same should be in place for selling vapes – and only non-nicotine vapes. This provides a clear point of difference between the illegal stores operating in the black market and the legitimate small business owner. The illicit nicotine vaping outlets (along with illicit cigarettes) are also contributing to the loss of revenue within legitimate small business outlets.

Shut these illicit stores down and therefore the availability of nicotine vapes and vaping numbers, in general, will drop.