

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

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Dear committee members,

My name is Meg Geering from [REDACTED] and I am writing to urge the Queensland Government to take decisive and practical action on nicotine vaping products by regulating them just like tobacco and alcohol.

Firstly, Doubling down on the current model of trying to contain illicit products will continue to drive supply underground as with other prohibited substances. Trying to police this is impractical and will not work. The only solution is regulated retail sale to adults, by licensed retailers, requiring strict age verification with heavy penalties for breaches – just like alcohol and tobacco. This will hurt the black market supply and reduce supply to minors.

Moreover, All risks of vaping must be balanced with the risks of smoking, which kills 20,000 people in Australia every single year. If we replaced all tobacco smokers with vapers overnight there would be immediate health benefits for the entire community. Vaping is cited by the Cochrane Review as the most effective quitting aid for tobacco smokers. We must not make it harder for adult smokers to choose to make the switch.

Lastly, Besides being far less harmful to the individual vaping has substantially less impact on communities and the health system. We know that second hand cigarette smoke is harmful to bystanders but there is no evidence that second hand nicotine vape smoke is harmful to people. This is backed up by a 2016 study by the UK Royal College of Physicians and a 2018 review by Public Health England.

In summary, we must stop access by Queensland youth to these products. The only way to do that is to cut off their supply – which is currently an illegal market. I urge you to immediately take steps to progress to a model of strict regulation of vaping products for retail sales so we can have clarity.

Yours sincerely,

Meg Geering
[REDACTED]