

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

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Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Vaping – An Inquiry into Reducing Rates of E-Cigarette Use in Queensland

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) supports research on e-cigarette use. In the last 10 years (2013–2022), NHMRC has committed over \$17.2 million for studies of the health impacts of e-cigarettes, e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid, patterns and use of e-cigarettes, and understanding the impacts of e-cigarettes.

NHMRC also released the CEO Statement on Electronic Cigarettes ('the Statement') in June 2022 (available at: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/all-topics/electronic-cigarettes/ceo-statement>). The Statement summarises the evidence on the benefits and harms of e-cigarette use for the whole population, including children and young people. Although more research is needed, the evidence shows that e-cigarettes can be harmful and, if you are not a smoker, there are no health benefits from using e-cigarettes. The Statement notes that e-cigarettes may help some smokers to quit.

The Statement is based on the best available scientific evidence that has been critically appraised according to best practice methods. The advice was developed under the guidance of an independent expert committee using internationally recognised methods to translate the evidence and reduce risk of bias. A number of independent experts also reviewed the Statement to ensure that the evidence had been appropriately interpreted and synthesised.

The Terms of Reference for the Vaping Inquiry consider:

1b. Risks of vaping harmful chemicals, including nicotine, to individuals, communities, and the health system

NHMRC refers the Health and Environment Committee to the *E-liquids, chemical exposure and toxicity* section of the Statement. NHMRC developed a toxicology report which summarises the toxicological risk assessments of chemicals, other than nicotine, known to be used in e-cigarettes and maps evidence available on toxicology associated with the inhalation of e-liquids (available at: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/file/18287/download?token=Z5D5_sam).



For a summary of the evidence on the health effects of vaping, NHMRC refers the Health and Environment Committee to the *Health effects* section of the Statement.

NHMRC has no comments on the other Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Anne Kelso AO
Chief Executive Officer