

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

Submission No: 27
Submitted by: Kerry McKenzie
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear committee members,

My name is Kerry McKenzie 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, 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.

Lastly, With hundreds of thousands of adult Queenslanders now vaping, surely the state is missing out on millions upon millions of dollars in tax revenue by not having vaping products available for legal sale. We are all being asked to tighten our belts and it seems like a crazy opportunity to pass on significant streams of tax revenue that can be used to provide services to Queenslanders.

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,

Kerry McKenzie

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