

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

**Submission No:** 35  
**Submitted by:** Andrew Thompson  
**Publication:**  
**Attachments:**  
**Submitter Comments:**

# Submission to: Vaping – an Inquiry into Reducing Rates of E-cigarette use in Queensland

By Andrew Thompson, advocate for Tobacco Harm Reduction via low-risk nicotine and tobacco products.

**prevalence of e-cigarette use, particularly amongst children and young people;**

Minimise the black market that sells to 'all ages' by allowing the legal retail sale of e-cigarettes to adults from licensed premises. It was the frustration of adults at the de facto prohibition resulting from the prescription model introduced by the federal government, and fear of importing nicotine as they had been for years, combined with the reluctance of GPs to prescribe nicotine, that caused them to approach local tobacco shops and convenience stores in efforts to get the products that had allowed them to kick the smoking habit. Seeing a business opportunity, the vendors leapt on the idea and the black market (which sells to anyone with the money) exploded.

**risks of vaping harmful chemicals, including nicotine, to individuals, communities, and the health system;**

Specify that all e-liquids supplied by licensed vendors, comply with the TGA's [Therapeutic Goods Order 110: Prohibited ingredients](#): a list of substances prohibited for inclusion in e-liquids. [The list does not include nicotine]

**approaches being taken in Queensland schools and other settings relevant to children and young people to discourage uptake and use of e-cigarettes.**

Start a campaign promoting e-cigs to adults, showing 'old farts vaping'. Make it seem very uncool to youth, without ever addressing them directly to tempt them into doing something 'adult' or 'forbidden'. This style of messaging kept the youth of England having little desire to try nicotine vaping (Though recently, frustration with the EU's TPD (voted into British law prior to them leaving the EU) has caused an increase in vaping among youth, their levels of youth vaping are still low.)

Here are some mock-ups of how the Australian equivalents might look.



**awareness of the harmful effects of e-cigarette use (with and without nicotine) to an individual's health, and the effectiveness of preventative activities;**

Address the harms of e-cigarette use by requiring makers of smoked tobacco products to include messages to people who smoke, promoting vaping, as designed by the government. Mandate that warnings be included with e-cigarettes.

**accessibility and effectiveness of services and programs to prevent uptake and continuing use of e-cigarettes.**

Require makers of e-cigarettes and e-liquid to include instructions on tapering down nicotine levels with a view to quitting. Ensure e-liquids are supplied in a range of strengths as a requirement for a retail license.

**Consideration of waste management and environmental impacts of e-cigarette products.**

Require licensed vendors to have 'vape recycling bins' for e-cigs and e-liquids. Further, encourage them to offer 'one free for every five returned', with a receipt of purchase. [Note: that last part is important to avoid people hunting around for any old discards in the hope of getting a free vape.]

### **A jurisdictional analysis of other e-cigarette use inquiries, legislative frameworks, policies and preventative activities (including their effectiveness in reducing e-cigarette use).**

Legislate loss or withdrawal of licenses to sell if a vendor is not complying with all aspects of the licence as described above (age restrictions, recycling, nicotine strengths etc) combined with huge fines for non-compliance. Offer an anonymous line for reporting breaches. [this would encourage licensed vendors to report non-compliant sales, with a view to protecting their own business]

## **Update in Response to the Latest Federal Actions**

With the the War on Vaping ramping up, Australia is clearly headed down a path to a booming black market for nicotine vapes as well as many older and younger people turning back to (black market, because the taxed stuff is highway robbery) cigarettes and loose tobacco. There have been many warnings issued to federal inquiries by regular people. 194 people included the exact phrase 'black market' in responses to a *single* recent inquiry. See [this thread](#) for direct quotes from some, referenced back to the public documents.

When (not if, **when**) this fails, look back on these words for guidance out of the mess started by Greg Hunt and enthusiastically expanded by Mark Butler.