

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

**Submission No:** 38  
**Submitted by:** Matthew Cork  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

Dear committee members,

My name is Matthew Cork 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, The Queensland Government seems concerned about the safety of vaping products. This is welcomed. The only way to ensure product safety is to have a regulated market for retail sales where there are strict product standards. Products that don't meet those standards can be made illegal. Without taking action and moving to a regulated market, the illicit trade will continue with its associated risks for Queensland consumers.

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,

Matthew Cork

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