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

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Submitter Comments:



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Dear Committee,

Submission to the Health and Environment Committee Vaping – An Inquiry Into Reducing Rates of E-Cigarette Use in Queensland

I provide this submission to highlight the Pumicestone community's concerns regarding the increased prevalence and use of e-cigarettes in Queensland.

People in the Pumicestone community are clear that e-cigarette use represents a real threat to public health. Many community members and stakeholders have shared their concerns about increasing rates of e-cigarette use.

A commonly-raised concern is the uptake of e-cigarette use and resulting addiction amongst children and young adults. Community members tell me that because e-cigarettes come in sweet and fruity flavours and colourful packaging, they are being directly marketed to a young audience. The packaging fails to note the chemical ingredients of e-cigarettes and the harm they can cause.

Local parents report concerns about a sharp increase of vaping in schools.

With smoking rates still relatively high in Pumicestone, community members are concerned ecigarette use is creating a new generation of nicotine addicts, with alarming numbers of young people reporting regular use of e-cigarettes.

Sarah submitted the following response to my Vaping Survey (Appendix 1):

"My son and his friends have been vaping since they were 11 years old and now is saying he is addicted, and I didn't even know until recently ... he is 14."

Unfortunately, Sarah's story is common, and e-cigarettes are easily accessible to Pumicestone children, through pupils selling products or sourcing them from unregulated local stores or online markets.

Community members have recounted that local stores in the Pumicestone Electorate accept cash only, do not request to see ID and sell e-cigarettes that do not contain a list of ingredients.

People tell me they worry that risks associated with e-cigarette use are also largely unknown, owing to the relatively recent emergence of usage, and that lack of regulation on packaging and marketing worsen the situation.

Given our coastal location, some groups and individuals have also raised concerns about waste management and the environmental impact of disposable vapes.

Other community members have noted that they took up vaping as a cost of living measure given the low price of cheap unregulated e-cigarettes compared with legally available conventional cigarettes.

Please find attached the community responses to the Pumicestone Vaping Survey in Appendix 1 and further community comments received in Appendix 2, for submission to the Health Committee Inquiry.

I request that any surnames or identifying information be redacted from the submitted material prior to publication online.

Yours sincerely



Ali King MP
State Member for Pumicestone





Name Address Suburb Code Address Phone N	I am someone who currently vapes I	I have a loved one who vapes	I am employed in a professio nal role where vaping is I sell vapes and e- an issue cigarettes	I am someone who has I sell a general other interest tobacc in vaping produc	Other (please l'd like to cut down	I'm okay with how much I vape/sm oke right now me I was trying to quit smoking and but it was vaping to keright now me I was smoking and but it was vaping to seemed expensiv	I've never smoked, I took up vaping J because Ismy I took up friends/ot vaping V hers for other apply to were reasons me Open-Ended Response Vapes are unsafe to a use -	Vapes are unsafe to Vapes are the use unsafe to Neither unsafe to use - g brair size - disagree disagree Usagree disagree Vapes can he are the unsafe to use - g brair Strongly Strong disagree agree	g Vaping can harm Vaping can harm being the vaping can harm developin can harm the developin developin developin g brain agree nor g brain - Strong Agree Disagree disagre	rm Vaping can Vaping damage can the lungs damage y - Strongly the lungs agree - Agree disagree Disagrem	Vaping during Vaping adolesce can nee can addiecto e cause the lungs addiction - Strongly Strongly ree disagree agree Vaping during nee can be can nee can addiction - Strongly Strongly addiction - Strongly Strongly addiction - agree disagree disagree disagree vaping v	Vapes are Vaping during adolesce nor addiction - Strongly ee Disagree Vaping during adolesce are to cause or cause or Disagree Vaping during adolesce are to cause addiction - Strongly Strongly cigarette agree s - Agree	Vapes are healthier than smoking tobacco gs - tobacco squaret eagree nor s - Brongly Edisagree lisagree lisagre	Vapes help Vapes smokers Vapes help shelp to quit - smokers Neither smokers to quit oquit - agree nor to quit - Agree disagree Disagree disag	It is unsafe to unsafe to use unsafe to use unsafe to vapes vapes use around tothers - disagree Usagree It is unsafe to use use around use around others - disagree or others - disagree It is unsafe to use use unsafe vapes around vapes others - agree nor others - disagree It is unsafe to lit is unsafe to use use use unsafe vapes around others - disagree Disagre	It is unsafe to to use vapes around is Nicotine harmless is Strongly e disagree agree Nicotine agree D	ilicotine is armless harmless - Strongly Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell Preventing the sale lisagree to) Preventing the sale unlicensed cheap v	Changing marketing of vapes, of eg removing the novelty pes flavours and packaging people give up Changing marketing of vapes, More services to help accurate information about what is actually in vapes	t Other Other (please specify)	Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping sale of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products Funding healthcare services to people quit	Restricting the marketing of vaping products (can only be to help done by the Federal Government) Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Government) Other (please specify)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry I	I have a loved one who vapes				Doesn't apply to me	Doesn't My son and his friends have been vainglorious since apply to approx 11 years old and now is saying he is addicted Strongly me and I didn't even know until recently he is 14 agree	Strong agree	ly	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Neither agree nor disagree		Strongly disagree	Changing marketing of vapes, eg removing the novelty flavours and packaging			Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government) Guy
	Annoymous I	I have a loved one who vapes		I am someone who has a general interest in vaping		Doesn't apply to me	Doesn't apply to Damage to lungs and impact on health and me wellbeing	Strong Agree agree	ly	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree		Strongly disagree		Marketing campaign that outline the impact on health and wellbeing	Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products	
	I am someone who You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry vapes			l am someone who has a	l'd like to quit	I was trying to quit smoking and	I took up vaping for other reasons Health concerns but addiction is hard with them, Realising that it's actually not as healthy as it seems. And a lot of younger people do it because they	Agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Neither agree nor disagree	Strong disagr	ily ee	Strongly disagree D	isagree Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell to)		It should be a combination of restricting sales,	Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products	Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	Annoymous I am someone who currently Annoymous vapes			general interest in vaping		vaping seemed healthier I was trying to l'm okay quit with how smoking much I and vaping ke right seemed now healthier	seem to think it's cool. It's not and the fact of how expensive they are as well, the littering factor needs Strongly to be considered. Not having easy access to nicotine due to under-age access	Strongi agree Strongi agree agree	ly		Strongly		Strongly	v	Neither agree nor	D		Providing people with accurate information about what is actually in vapes	preventing the sale and changing the market of vapes however, it should be a cost factor, raise price of vapes and flavours as we do for cigarett	the	Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government) Apply penalties to parents who aren't actively monitoring their children. Also increase the penalties to sellers who sell to under-age.
	I am someone who You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry vapes		l am employed in a			I was trying to quit with how smoking much I vape/smo vaping ke right seemed now healthier		Disagree		Neither agree nor		Strongly	Strongly	v		Neither agree nor		Providing people with accurate information about what is actually in vapes			Restricting the marketing of vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	Annoymous You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry		al role where vaping is an issue		Potential health impacts	Doesn't apply to me Doesn't apply to me	caught vaping while waiting for the bus. I work in a primary school and I can tell you that primary age children gain access to these "non-nicotine" Strongly agree Doesn't apply to Deliberate downplaying of the health risks of vaping Strongly by interested parties.	Strong agree Strong agree	ly	Strongly	Strongly agree Strongly agree		Neither agree nor disagree Disagree	Strong disagr Disagree	gly Strongly ee agree Strongly agree		Strongly disagree Strongly disagree		Consequences for underage vaping. All of the above. Ban sales to anyone born after certain year	a Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products	Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry		l am employed in a profession al role where vaping is			Doesn't apply to me Doesn't apply to	Doesn't apply to How cheap and easily accessible they are to young	agree	ly	Strongly			Neither agree nor	Neither agree nor			Strongly disagree	Providing people with accurate information about what is actually in vapes	All of the above!!	Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate funding healthcare services to he people quit Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products Funding healthcare services to he people quit	Government) Restricting the marketing of vaping products (can only be Banning vaping products (can
	You can share my response with the Health				daughter has been caught vaping Mother my kids don't vap but affects them at	Doesn't apply to me Doesn't apply to	me people who otherwise wouldn't be smoking Doesn't apply to me That teens anf young adults are using them Strongly agree Doesn't apply to Kids at school are vaping in the toilets and my kids Strongly	Strong agree Strong	ly	Strongly agree Strongly	Strongly agree Strongly		Neither agree nor disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree Neither	D	Strongly	Providing people with accurate information about what is actually in vapes		Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products	Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government) Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal
	Committee Vaping Inquiry Annoymous				aged children, who are around kids vainglorio us (primary & high	Doesn't	Doesn't apply to me What is in it? Why is it in schools and on school buses, kids aren't allowed to smoke in these areas, why should this be allowed.	Strong	ly	Strongly	Strongly		Neither agree nor	Neither agree nor	Strongly		disagree Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell to) Strongly disagree Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell to)			Accessible, accurate Further restriction and enforcement re the sale information about the of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products	Government) Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal (Government)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry				child a BISHS where. API g is a major issue Children in my son's classroom	Doesn't apply to me	Children vaping in class, in the toilets, at school in general. I front of teachers there are so many kids apply to doing it they can't discipline them all. Where are they getting the vapes, who is allowing this Strongly		Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree Strongly	Strongly agree Strongly		Strongly disagree Strongly	Neither agree nor disagree	Neither agree nor disagree		Strongly disagree Strongly	Changing marketing of vapes, eg removing the novelty flavours and packaging	All of these	Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products	
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry		I am employed in a profession al role where vaping is an issue			Doesn't apply to me	Doesn't apply to me Kids vaping - future health issues	Strongly Strong	ly	Strongly	Strongly		Strongly	Strong	gly Strongly		Strongly Preventing the sale o	unlicensed			Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry		l am employed in a		Teacher and	Doesn't apply to	Doesn't apply to The long-term health impacts and eventual cost to Strongly agree Doesn't apply to me Doing it at school, being addictive. Strongly agree	Strong agree Strong agree	ly	Strongly	Strongly		Strongly		Strongly		Strongly		That is a big presumption. Vaping is still new. Be entirely. Inc price.	Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products	Doin't accept that. If you can close the borders, you can ban vaping in the State. Restricting the marketing of vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry		profession al role where vaping is an issue		Mly grandchild ren at	Doesn't apply to me	Doesn't apply to The damages to young students, sharing vapes and me diseases. Strongly agree	Strong agree	ly	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Neither agree nor disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Neither agree nor disagree		Strongly disagree		All the above		Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)
	You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry				high school tell me kids vape in the toilets and get people to buy them for them from convenien ce stores	Doesn't apply to me	Doesn't That kids have easy access and that they are apply to marketed to them - different flavours etc. I do not me understand why they are even sold so openly agree	Strong agree	ly	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree		Strongly disagree Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell to)			Further restriction and enforcement re the sale of illegal vaping products	
	Annoymous You can share my response with the Health Committee Vaping Inquiry	I have a loved one who vapes	employed in a profession al role where vaping is an issue		Ex-smoker	Doesn't apply to me Doesn't apply to me	Young people have easy access to vapes (they are sold by other students at school). Young people are using vapes at school and can conceal them easily. Young people are using nicotine vapes and Doesn't becoming addicted. Vapes are disgusting and am apply to applied how many young people vape, it is me normalised and horrible as a parent to have no say. Doesn't apply to Same as cigarette smoking. It's a health harming habit.	Strong agree	ly Agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree		Disagree Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly agree Agree		Strongly disagree Restricting sales (eg limiting where people can sell, or who they can sell to) Strongly disagree	Changing marketing of vapes, eg removing the novelty flavours and packaging		Further restriction and enforcement re the sale information about the of illegal vaping products Accessible, accurate information about the chemicals in vaping products Funding healthcare services to he people quit	Restricting the marketing of vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government) Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government) Banning vaping products (can only be done by the Federal Government)

Appendix 2: Community Comments on the Health and Environment Committee Vaping – An Inquiry Into Reducing Rates of E-Cigarette Use in Queensland.

First Name	Last Name	Comments
		"My whole school bathroom is
		full of vaper's making some
		toilets unusable since they're
		all using them. With the bright
		packaging, cool names and
		flavours, it could be said that
		they are directly targeting
		teenagers."
		"Hi Ali, I saw your FB post
		about vaping as a mother of
		teenagers it is of concern to
		me that my children tell me of
		students vaping in the school
		toilets. I'm sure this is
		happening in most high
		schools, and I would dare to
		say even in primary schools. I
		thought you should know."
		"Hi Ali I am 60 and have
		smoked since I was 14. I've
		tried numerous ways of giving
		up this horrible habit, without
		success. I have reduced the
		amount of cigarettes I smoke
		significantly by vaping (without
		adding nicotine to the juice),
		and I intend to gradually give
		up smoking and then baking
		within a year or so. I believe
		vaping can be extremely
		helpful as an aid to quitting
		smoking. However, I am aware
		that many young people who
		aren't smokers are becoming
		addicted to vaping, and I think
		every effort should be made to
		stop this trend. Whilst it's a
		great help to smokers like
		myself to reduce & eventually
		quit smoking, it is a health
		hazard to those who take up
		vaping for any other reason
		other than to quit smoking. I'd
		like to see legislation that
		prohibits the use of nicotine in
		vape juice, and I think the
		brightly coloured, flavoured
		vape juices which appeal to

	young people should be banned."
	"I spoke to you earlier on in the year about the serious smoking and drugs located at the only high school for a huge catchment area. Now this is the next step that's occurred. I would be estimating but I think that 60 per cent of parents that send there kids to this school have serious concerns about safety education standards and also the mental health status associated with send our children here. Can you please action a serious combine effort with this school staff qld police to fix this systemic problem in our community."