

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 e-cigarette 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.

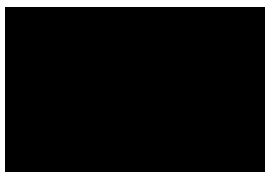
Given our coastal location, some groups and individuals have also raised concerns about waste management and the environmental impact of disposable vapes.

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

Working hard for us

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
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>“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.”</p>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>“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.”</p>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>“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</p>

		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.”