

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

**Submission No:** 42  
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**Submitter Comments:**

My name is Leah Tankard.,

I'd like to start out by thanking the government for considering different voices on this matter. I own a vape shop. I've been involved in the vaping industry for 7 years now. Because of that fact, I'll be able to provide with some key insights you might not know.

One of the main points I'd like to address is that there are **2 sides to the vaping industry here in Australia**. That being the vape industry that has been steadily growing for the past 10 years who offer valuable information in regards to the safe usage of the vaping products we sell to assist those transiting off harmful cigarettes. And then the black market disposable vapes. **It's very important that the government understands this distinction between the 2 as hasn't been the case up to date**, as we discuss this matter further.

## **I want to outline what the Vape Industry in Australia stands for....**

- Our Vaping Industry doesn't exist to draw in adults to a dependancy they don't already have.
- **We support adult smokers who want to use vape devices** to transition **away** from the more harmful cigarettes. It has been proven in many studies overseas including The UK [Royal College of Physicians](#) as being a healthier alternative to smoking. In fact its proven to be around 95% healthier than smoking. **We don't include the disposable vapes in this scenario.**
- **We support the ban on black market disposable vapes.** We don't see them as part of the vaping industry, because, this industry supports Quality and Safety. No self-respecting Vape Vendor would sell black market disposable vapes as we want our industry to thrive.
- **We support a regulated market including licensing** to sell these products where adult smokers and adult ex-smokers are able to safely access these products **with strict regulations in place to avoid youth vaping. 73% of Australians support vaping products sold as regulated adult consumer product** - Ray Morgan research.
- **We support hefty fines for those who choose to sell to children.**
- The prescription method has failed. The black market has thrived because of this method and will continue to thrive if you move vapes over to pharmacy only. Because **a ban on legitimate vape operators WONT stop the black market!**
  - **you will push people back towards dangerous cigarettes (which we all suspect is the driving force)** due to lost revenue in tobacco tax
  - **the dangerous black market vaping won't cease, because the alternative is smoking or vaping low quality, disgusting pharmacy grade vapes.**
- The UK and NZ have very similar health care systems to Australia and they both have very sensible regulation methods for the sale of vaping products.
- Vaping vendors are generally passionate and well versed in vaping and will offer information on our websites as well as in store on how to use the vaping products and how to go about the government scheme in regards to legally obtaining the nicotine.

\*Please see the link below, which is our very own blog where we provide information on the government scheme and advise against black market disposable vapes. You will find most of

the Vape Vendors who have been operating for as long as us will all have this type of information on their sites.

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<https://australianvapingsupplies.com.au/blog/>  
<https://australianvapingsupplies.com.au/elementor-40228/>

## 2nd part of the industry: DISPOSABLE VAPES

**Disposable vapes are a blight on the industry** and are confusing people about vaping being a safer alternative to smoking. They are not safer, and we don't ever claim that they are or that they are part of our industry.

**These disposable vapes are what are causing the problems with growing rates of children taking up vaping and causing the environmental issues along with the governments failed prescription model.**

- It is continually reported that vaping is bad for you. The distinction isn't being made between the industry vapes and the black market disposable vapes.
- The Gold Coast Public health Unit tested 11000 vapes and found them to have high amounts of nicotine in them. They admitted these were disposable vapes that they **did NOT purchase from legal vape vendors**, but instead purchased from pop up stores.
- Disposable black market vapes are cheap and nasty which are often sold in tobacconists and corner stores, newsagents and social media channels or even a mate's mate. Reputable vape stores **do not sell these**, remember vape stores are passionate about vaping as a healthier alternative to smoking and these don't fit into that framework. Although, there are the cowboys in the industry and we welcome you stamping anyone out who dares to sell these.

**Why are they cheap and nasty compared to The Vape Industry vape devices that we sell from reputable world renowned brands :**

- No safety features. Batteries can't vent if they are getting hot. And therefore may melt or blow up.
- There is no guarantee of the quality of the Chinese eliquid and or the cotton or wire used inside them. I.e, bleached cotton.
- They contain highly addictive amounts of nicotine 50 - 100mg's as stated in QLD Health's own report.
- They are not reusable ensuring massive amounts of lithium ion batteries are being disposed of into the environment.
- Their main purpose is to get people addicted. How? With high concentrations of nicotine and high concentrations of sweetener in the ejuice.
- They are an easy way for children to obtain nicotine with many a corner store selling them.

## A Vaporizer and Its Components

**All vapes have 3 distinct elements** whether they are disposable or not. That is 1. A battery; 2. A tank or pod which houses the ejuice and; 3. a heating element often called a coil or atomiser which is composed of wire and cotton.

The battery heats up the heating element/coil, which in turn heats up the liquid sitting in the tank/pod which then produces the vapour we inhale.

### **Disposable Vape:**

A disposable vape will have the nicotine ejuice ready to go. Once the juice is consumed, you entire unit is thrown away.

### **A Vape Industry Device:**

Will need to have the ejuice added to it. It doesn't come pre-filled. Once the liquid has been consumed, you can refill it. Once the heating element (coil) has had its life, you may replace it. The battery in these devices if internal will last approx 1 - 3 years before needing to be disposed of. If requiring replaceable batteries, these often last 3 years or more.

.....

## **So lets look at Why have the disposable vape market has taken off here in Australia**

Currently with the legal vape industry it's a 4 - 5 step process to get to the point of inhaling a nicotine product.

1. You purchase your reusable, refillable device
2. You purchase your ejuice separately
3. You pay for and obtain a prescription
4. Then for the nicotine....
  - You will generally need to import your undiluted nicotine in it from overseas and mix it into your ejuice
- OR
- you may import an ejuice with a mg amount of nicotine in it from overseas.
5. You add your nicotine to your ejuice.

With Disposable vapes its a **one step process**. You illegally purchase your nicotine vape from a tobacconist, corner store or a mate's mate...and away you go

### **Currently this is what happens when someone rings our vape store asking for a disposable vape..**

Customer: 'Hi, do you sell disposable vapes'

Vape Store; 'Hi, No, we don't sell that type of product here. Do you know that they are illegal?'

Customer: 'yeah'

Vape Store: 'Do you know they are really bad for you and often contain up to 50mg's and more of nicotine in them and don't even get me started on the quality of ejuice in them'

Customer: 'Yeah, I heard someone say that, but how do I know if it contains nicotine or not, there's nothing on the package'

Vape Store: 'Where do you usually buy them?'

Customer:

'A tobacconist' (that's the answer we hear the most) or 'the Kebab store guy' .....

Vape Store: 'the ones sold in tobacconists and everywhere except vape stores will more than likely have a massive amount of nicotine in them - 50mg's or so'

How about you come on in and we'll show our selection of high quality vape devices and quality ejuices. It's cheaper for you in the long run and better for your health. The vaping industry isn't about those nasty disposable vapes, they've snuck in a a convenient way to get your nicotine. They are the worst of the worst. We can assist you to transition off the cigs and or the disposable vapes.

With our proper industry vapes, you refill them and recharge them, so you're not throwing a battery into the environment every week.

Customer: **'Do they come with nicotine?'**

Vape Store: 'No, they don't, it's illegal for us to sell nicotine to you, however we can show you how you can legally obtain it'

Customer: 'Don't I need to get a prescription?'

Vape Store: "You do, but this is the legal and better way to be vaping with nicotine, lets say it's the proper way to vape.'

Customer: 'Nah, don't worry, I'll call someone else and see if they have the disposables.'

**Not only is this complicated prescription scheme pushing smokers who want to quit by using a vape, over to the convenient black market vapes, you're pushing the small business owners - vape stores, to the brink of collapse.**

## **Ceasing all imported vapes.**

It is obvious, the government is under pressure from schools and parents in regards to vaping. We, the vape industry are right behind you in being horrified that children are not only getting their hands on vapes, but they are consuming large amounts of nicotine. We also want this to stop immediately !!

It needs to be understood, not ignored that the problem, is **NOT with vape shops** who are supplying adults with life altering tobacco harm therapy. We value our industry, we have heard you talking about such things in the works for some time now and we do our best to tow the line and educate customers against the dangers of disposables as well as how to access the importation scheme, so as not to see our industry fail. **To punish those doing the right thing due to the actions of those doing the wrong thing is a very ignorant stance to take tomato it look like to dealt with the problem.**

The second obvious point is that the government has been reported to have lost \$5bn in revenue from tobacco tax due to falling tobacco sales. Banning vape stores from selling these products will have. A two fold action.

- a. 1/2 your current vapers will go back to cigarettes, which we can all clearly see is a big win for government. The tax you're proposing won't stop those addicted to nicotine and you well

know it. Its a lovely way for he government to claw back its lost revenue.

- b. The other half will move over to disposable vapes. We have spoken to many of our customers and this is the paths they feel they will take. They will NOT go to the pharmacy to purchase a subpar device with a tobacco flavour in it, when 99% of our customers DONT vape tobacco flavours.

The government is wrongly targeting people who are running a legitimate small business, who pay their taxes, employ people and offer important life saving information and products to people who want off the harmful cigarettes, but also want to enjoy their experience and stay strong. Flavours are what do that!

**So, with the method of banning the vape industry, did the government curtail youth vaping? No..... Because the black market still exists as vape stores didn't sell them in the first place, and its the black market that the children are getting their hands on.**

Nor did the government put any budget into policing those actual stores who are selling them.

**We see you clearly, Australian Government, in terms of either earning your revenue from Big Tobacco or Big Pharma.**

**At the parlimentary hearing we ourselves attended and spoke, one of your ministers in the toilets admitted to us, that this was all about money!!!**

'Banning drugs doesn't stop people using them - more than 43% of [Australians have tried an illicit drug](#) at least once. And it has very little impact on the availability of drugs. But prohibition does have a number of unintended consequences, including driving drugs underground and creating a [black market](#) or [increasing harms](#) as people switch to other drugs, which are often more dangerous.

The black market [makes drugs more dangerous](#) because there is no way to control quality. And it makes it easier, not harder, for teens to access them, because there are no restrictions on who can sell or buy them.'

- <https://theconversation.com/how-bad-is-vaping-and-should-it-be-banned-197913>THE

## **SOLUTION:**

**The first step is to curb the black market disposable vape market.**

### **How?**

- **Classify Vapes as an Adult Consumer product just like cigarettes and alcohol** - not a medicine.
  - Then licensed retailers would require mandatory age-verification for sales to adults. Enforcing fines and loss of licence for those selling to the underaged which would enforce compliance.
  - 'In the UK, NZ, US and Canada, vaping products are classified as adult consumer goods, not medicines. These countries have effectively introduced measures to prevent youth access while providing easier access for adult smokers wishing to quit. Strict consumer licensing systems work. Alcohol and cigarettes have been regulated like this for years.' - Colin Mendelsohn.

- It has been proven via overseas models that 'the way to reduce the black market vapes is to make quality-controlled vapes and e-liquids more widely available, but restricted to adults. Because if adult smokers can access vaping products legally they wouldn't buy them on the black market and the black market would decline.' - Misha Ketchell  
<https://theconversation.com/how-bad-is-vaping-and-should-it-be-banned-197913>

- 'It's really important that we have the right regulations that discourage non-smokers, especially children from taking up vaping while also ensuring that e-cigarettes are available and satisfying for smokers that want to switch,' - Dr Jude Ball from the Department of Public Health at the University of Otago in Wellington NZ,
- That is: 'Nicotine vaping products being made available from **licensed retail outlets as adult consumer products** without a prescription, bringing Australia into line with every other western country. This was the conclusion of our peer-reviewed study, published in the leading academic journal, - Drug and Alcohol Review. - Colin Mendelsohn.
- **Crack down on those selling these products**, once we are able to curb the sale and acquisition of harmful disposable vapes, you will cut down on the rates of youth vaping. Children won't be bothered with a 4/5 step process to acquire these products. Its just too finicky.

Below is a screenshot, I took off one of the Australian vaping forums we're in to assist people with their questions about vaping. Someone will always come in and ask about where to get disposable vapes. It's generally met with a discussion about how bad they are for the user and the industry (this by both vendors but even more likely other vapers), and followed up with a discussion about the healthier vape industry alternatives. There is then usually someone who preys on these people and their questions with a quick response to DM them or as in this example below, there's even answers on where to obtain them.





- **Implement the same sort of successful system used overseas in the UK, USA and Canada in our cousin NZ .**
  - The UK and NZ have very similar health care systems to Australia and they both have very sensible regulation methods for vaping products.
- Vaping is not risk-free, but several detailed [reviews of the evidence](#) plus a [consensus of experts](#) have all [estimated](#) it's at least [95% safer](#) to vape nicotine than to smoke tobacco. The risk of cancer from vaping, for example, has been estimated at less than 1%.
  - <https://www.karger.com/Article/FullText/360220>

## Addressing The Ban on Flavours

**This is in regards to addressing Vape Industry Eliquids, NOT Disposable Vapes - as we support the ban on those.**

The government are claiming that the vaping industry have flavours available to draw children in. This is simply not true. We aren't legally allowed to advertise vaping products in Australia, so vaping isn't targeting children that way. Neither are we selling to children, as we value our industry and its longevity! Flavours are for adults who need them to stay strong and off the deadly cigarettes! If you're worried about the disposable vapes on the counters of endless stores, ban them, ban ALL of the disposables, claiming nicotine free or otherwise, so to rid the industry and the communities of the confusion and the problem and in turn address the environmental impact they have.

In terms of adults transiting off cigarettes, **these flavours are what keep people satisfied and assists them to stay strong and off the deadly cigarettes.** I would estimate 1- 5% at most, of my customer base enjoys a tobacco flavour. 100% of my customers are adults and **95 - 99% of them want a flavour different from a cigarette flavour.**

Its being proposed to us, that to access this potentially life saving equipment, we are only allowed to inhale a flavour similar to the proven cancer causing product we are trying to move away from. That is ludicrous. We are adults and we enjoy flavours. Forcing vapers to only be allowed a tobacco flavour, when they are trying to move away from that familiar flavour associated with a cigarette, will leave vapers craving. **Vaping 'tobacco' is not the same as 'smoking' tobacco.** We have been in this business 7 years, and flavours are what keep the adult vapers strong and off the cigarettes. **This in an important and integral part of the vape industry.**

**The TGA representative saying if we want. To vape nicotine, then we need to have to deal with it tasting like a dirty cigarette obviously has no real life interaction with this type of addiction!**

Also lets take a look at flavours, preservatives, colours, and additives in other such consumable products, like food, alcohol, sodas, energy drinks, cigarette gum etc. The hypocrisy is crazy and irrational!

These food stuffs and consumables are widely available to the public which contain such ingredients as these, where it is reported that a number of them are still under suspicion and others again that have proven links to cancer. Certain bodies such as the Cancer Council Australia and WHO are recommending to 'limit or avoid high amounts as they might lead to problems, so restrict usage.'

Yet all of these products are available to the public who are allowed to make a decision whether to put these products with these ingredients into their bodies or not. Why is this same freedom not afforded to adult vapers who might like to choose a flavour they enjoy which keeps them off the



cancer causing cigarettes? **It is hypercritical** and very much like the government is singling out this one industry - the vaping industry - in terms of banning flavours. If there is concern over these ingredients why would bans not be across the board for all of these consumables? There are endless scientific studies on these widely available ingredients. Here is a very tidy quick read into them.

<https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/food-warnings-and-safety/food-additives/articles/food-additives-you-should-avoid>

## **The vape Industry VS The Tobacco Industry**

**In regards to The vape industry:**

**\*\*Contrary to a popular government and media stance, this industry doesn't exist to draw adults in to a dependency they don't have\*\***

**Vaping is effective and important because:**

- Vapers have often tried all the other methods available with no success.
- Vaping Delivers nicotine in a safer way than cigarettes do, as it:
  - Provides a 'smoking-like experience'
  - Addresses the behavioural (hand-to-mouth action)
  - Provides a sensory ('throat hit', taste, inhaling and exhaling a visible 'smoke')
  - Addresses social aspects of the smoking ritual – but without most of the harmful toxins in smoke.

## **Vaping is a specialist industry ASIDE from Tobacco.**

**Our ethos as an industry is to assist those looking at coming off the cigarettes.** The world class brands most vape stores sell, have had to meet certain regulations overseas. These are the brands vape vendors stock and this is what makes up the legal vaping industry in Australia.

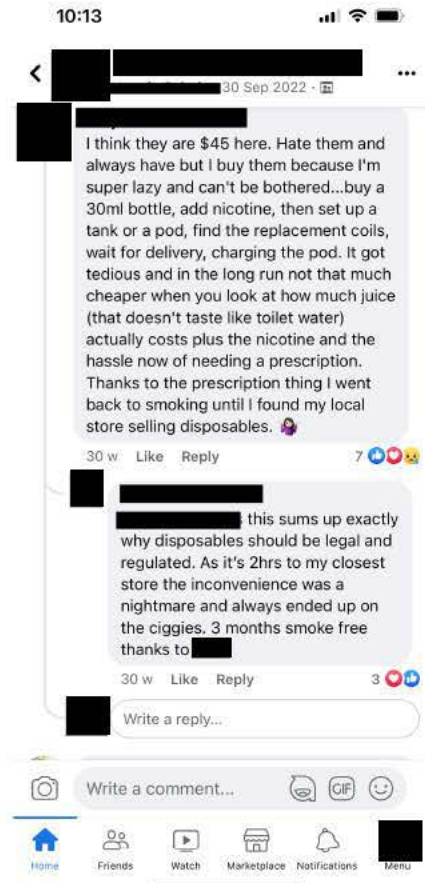
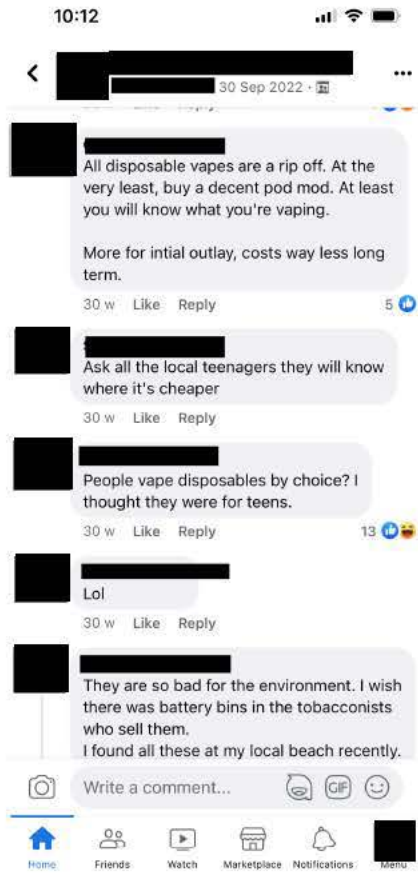
What you will find is that Vaping retailers are generally passionate about this form of nicotine replacement therapy as being a healthier alternative to smoking. Put simply the black market disposables don't fit into that framework. So we don't support them. We don't sell them. We are going under however sticking to our principles. We personally would have lost 50% of our sales due to disposables and you will find these type of figures reflected around the industry. A number of our customers are now coming to us to get off the disposables and get back to the healthier alternative. They will discuss how they feel so much worse than when they were on the proper vape industry vapes.

**Vape vendors who sell vapes will often have information on how to use their products and how to go about the government scheme on their websites.** So we provide the vapes and the ejuice and information on how to legally obtain the nicotine. Tobacconists don't. They don't have the same passion or drive as their main business is structured around selling tobacco. Customers will not receive the helpful information your local vape store will provide on choosing the correct vape device for your needs, nor how to legally obtain the nicotine. **Nor do they seem to care of the quality of what they are selling on.**

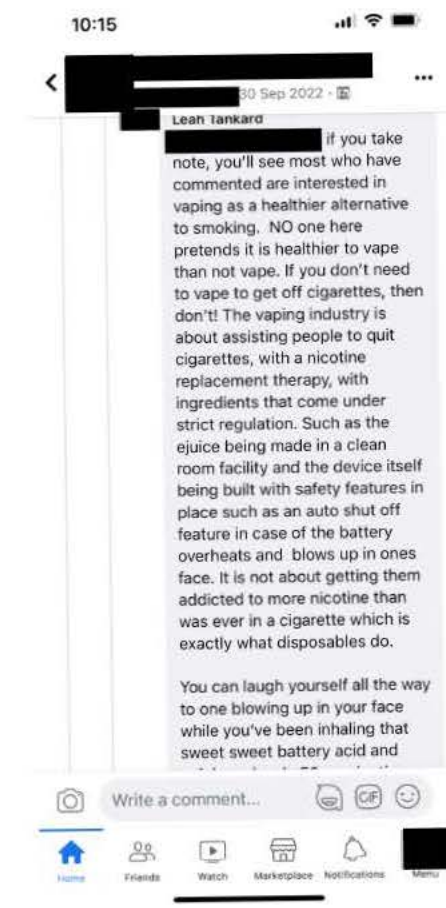
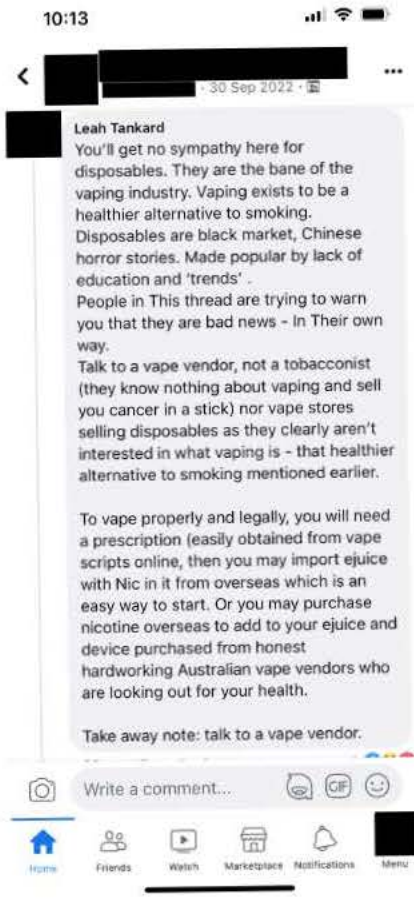
In comparison, vape vendors do. **We care of the quality of the devices, what's going into them and the legalities around them as we are passionate about this industry and want it to succeed so we may continue to have the choice to vape.**

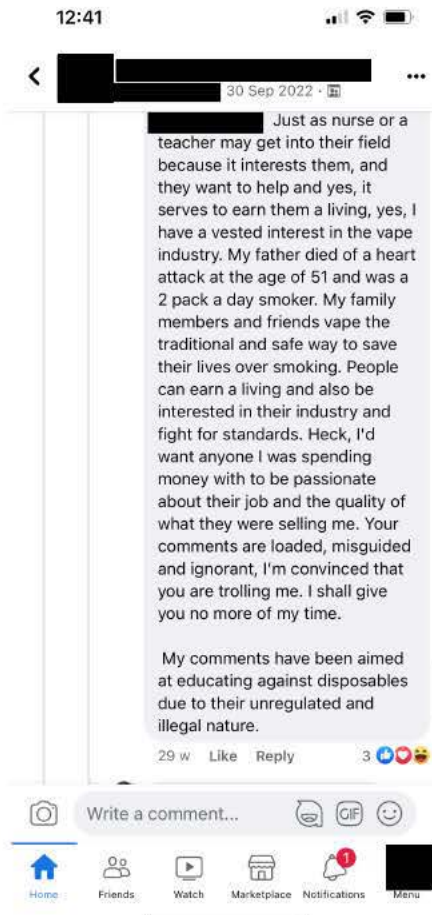
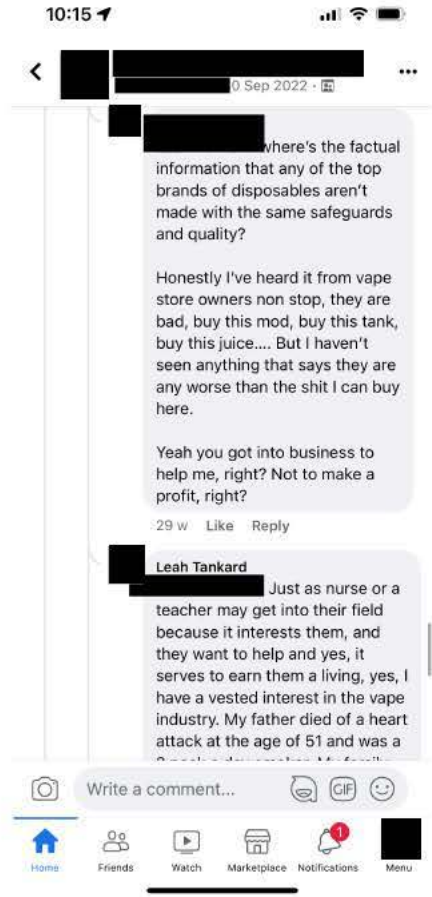
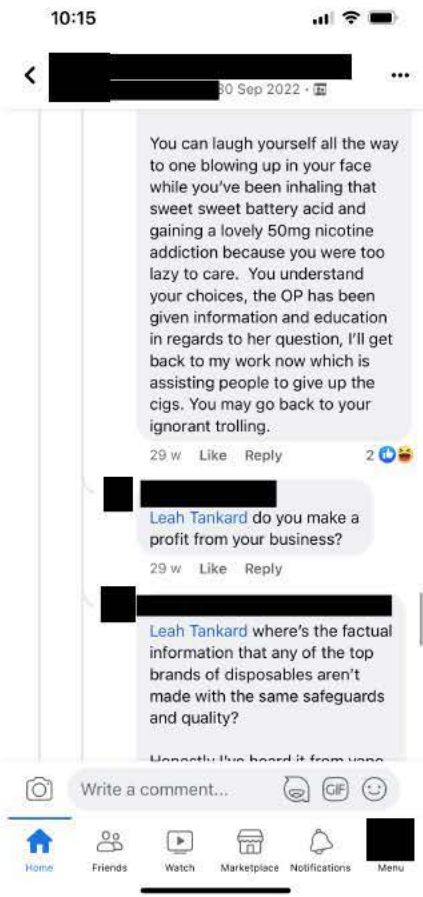
Here is a screen shot taken from a forum again that we are involved in. You will see someone has come on to enquire as to where to purchase cheap disposables. In general, this request (Barr from a few who use disposables or have an interest in selling them) is met with alternate solutions to the disposables and general education on how bad they are. **One such person goes on to say that due to the prescription method they went back to smoking.** And you will see my own answer where I try to offer information and education on the black market disposables. I want the government bodies to understand there is a very active and involved vaping community who are all about vaping as a safer alternative to smoking and against the disposables. I've covered their names in the interest of protecting their privacy as I haven't asked for their permission. I've also overlapped conversations so you can see, I've not chopped it all up like the media like to do offering a biased viewpoint.











Unfortunately, however those who aren't in the know about vapes, will often enquire at a tobacconist as they see them under the same umbrella. They aren't. **Their main business is structured around selling big tobacco and their proven cancer causing products**, which is what we vapers are doing our ultimate best to move away from.

**In terms of regulation, we don't want our vapes in the hands of big tobacco, and the government shouldn't either.** They have been proven to lie, and are after profits over everything. It is the popular disposable vape device **the Juul, made by Philip Morris of Big Tobacco** which has been the precursor to the problem we see in children and vaping..It's an epidemic overseas with the Juul front an centre .

We want their grubby mitts off our vaping industry. We implore the government to understand this fact and see us as an independent industry interested in a healthier alternative to smoking.

The following is taken from:

<https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/tobacco-prevention-efforts/5-ways-tobacco-companies-lied-about-dangers-smoking>

**1. Tobacco companies falsely denied that they can and do manipulate the level of nicotine in their products to create and sustain addiction, and have been since at least 1954.**

In 1994, the CEO of R.J. Reynolds testified in a public hearing held by Congress that the company does not "add, or otherwise manipulate nicotine to addict smokers" or "do anything to hook smokers or to keep them hooked." At the same public hearing, chairman and CEO of Lorillard testified that "Nicotine levels ... are not raised or reduced for particular brands."

**2. Tobacco companies "falsely denied, distorted and minimized" the link between cigarette smoking and disease, even though they internally recognized its existence.**

The 1964 Surgeon General's report concluded that smoking cigarettes causes death and disease. However, in a 1971 television interview, the president of Philip Morris denied the health risks that pregnant women and their babies face, saying that "It's true that babies born from women who smoke are smaller, but they are just as healthy as the babies born to women who do not smoke. Some women would prefer to have smaller babies."

**3. Tobacco companies concealed evidence and publicly denied that nicotine is addictive.**

In 1982, the National Institute of Drug Abuse confirmed that nicotine is addictive. A 1994 R.J. Reynolds document, called "Media Tips," stated that "Regardless of how you define addiction, cigarettes are clearly not in the same class as addictive, mind-altering drugs like heroin and cocaine."

In a 1997 issue of Time magazine, the president and CEO of Philip Morris was quoted as saying "If [cigarettes] are behaviorally addictive or habit forming, they are much more like ... GummiBears, and I eat Gummi Bears, and I don't like it when I don't eat my Gummi Bears, but I'm certainly not addicted to them."

#### **4. Tobacco companies “falsely marketed and promoted low-tar and light cigarettes as less harmful” than regular cigarettes to keep people smoking and sustain revenues.**

Research has proven that there is no safe cigarette and all cigarettes cause cancer, lung disease, heart attacks and premature death. A 1964 Lorillard memorandum admitted that “KENT was marketed as a ‘safer’ cigarette for the smoker who was concerned about smoking and health. In 1956 when an innocent third party (Reader's Digest) created an awareness to the consumer that KENT was the ‘safest’ of all popular cigarettes, Lorillard exploited this advantage so that within a short period of two years the KENT volume grew from less than four billion cigarettes to thirty-eight billion annually.”

#### **5. Tobacco companies internally acknowledged that secondhand smoke is hazardous to nonsmokers, yet still gave false and misleading public statements denying the fact.**

The industry also tried to undermine and discredit the evidence in the 1986 Surgeon General's report, which concluded that exposure to secondhand smoke is a health hazard to nonsmokers and causes disease and respiratory problems. In 1987, Philip Morris released a series of advertisements that pictured smokers "talking" to the reader, with statements like "Please don't tell me my cigarette smoke is harmful to you. There's just no convincing proof that it is." and "I know there's no proof my smoke can hurt you."

Source: The Truth Initiative.

### **MONEY side of things and profit.**

“Over \$2 billion is being spent by Australians buying the over 90 million illegal unregulated Chinese products that are being imported every year. All of this is being captured by the black market and illegal Australian online sellers along with sales available on most of the social media platforms.”

When we started our business we were so excited about this product being proven to assist adult smokers to quit in a healthier way being the lesser of the two evils by 95%. We switched and all of our friends and family switched and have never looked back. We feel so much healthier. This is doing it the proper way of course, not with the disposables. I feel I need to keep making this point, as it doesn't seem to have registered with the government and certainly not the media in the least. Or they are simply ignoring it!

We've seen a massive drop in sales, 50% in fact because of the rise in the disposable market due to the failed prescription method. **So 50% of my customers who were destined to move away from the cigarettes are now stuck on 50mg of nicotine in the disposable vapes and or have moved back to cancer causing tobacco products.**

The standards we demand from our vape device technology and liquids cost money to manufacture and produce. We, the vape vendor pay for this technology in our wholesale prices. Our profits from these products **on average are about 30%**

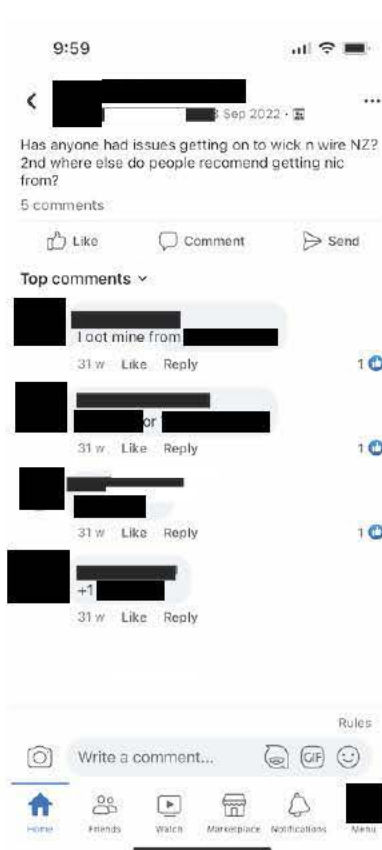
**In comparison, with disposables we could make 1000% profit.**

**Why is this industry being penalised for sticking to our morals, when there are endless industries out there preying on people?**



# Why penalise an industry that only wants to be allowed to choose this method of tobacco harm reduction over other methods that haven't worked for adult smokers trying to quit cigarettes?

Here's where the govt's money is going. Straight overseas!



## **In regards to the health Industry:**

There's not been one single death related to vaping nicotine, yet we have deaths related to smoking and alcohol and other products that are readily available to the consumer. Below is just one example of the health risks associated with one available consumer product - an energy drink just to prove a point. Seriously, the hypocrisy is crazy!

taken from Pubmed.ncbi.nlm

'Energy drink (ED) consumption has become a growing public health issue over the past few decades. Despite claims of being safe and beneficial, EDs have been linked to particularly fatal outcomes associated with the cardiovascular system which include atrial and ventricular arrhythmias, myocardial infarctions, cardiomyopathies, and sudden cardiac death. Large quantities of caffeine, taurine, sugars, and B-vitamins may be contributing to these outcomes by increasing the heart rate, blood pressure (BP), and contractility of the heart in addition to prolonging the QTc. There is still a substantial amount of unknown information on EDs that warrants more research and a dire need for age regulations, transparency of ingredients, clear labelling of adverse effects, and most importantly, education of consumers.'

## **In relation to vaping.....**

### **Excerpt taken from Sydney Criminal lawyers Blog in which Dr Alex Wodak is being interviewed**

"Vaping was developed to help smokers quit the very dangerous habit of smoking, which kills 21,000 Australians a year and 8 million smokers a year worldwide," said Dr Alex Wodak. "Smoking is still the most important long-term challenge to public health in Australia and internationally."

.....The doctor further raises other key smoking facts that have been lost in the recent campaign against vapes, which includes that two-thirds of smokers die as a result of it, **while, of the estimated 82 million vapers globally, there's never been "a single death... reported scientifically"**.

"Vaping isn't harmless", Wodak advises, but "it's much less dangerous than smoking". And he points out that while vaping aerosol contains between 100 to 200 chemicals at low concentrations, cigarettes contain around 7,000 such substances at higher levels and are often toxic in their effect.

"The demand for much safer vaping nicotine is high and rising in Australia, despite the difficulty obtaining legal supplies," he added. "Few doctors provide prescriptions for nicotine. Few chemists dispense nicotine for vaping. And few smokers are prepared to jump through these hoops." ‘

Seriously, what's the issue here? No one is here to claim vaping is harmless. However it is a useful aid in quitting smoking. And it should be allowed to be enjoyed by adults who require a flavours to keep them strong.

## **In regards To Evali**

The government bodies like to take this fact out of context. You can see from the below research

that's gone into EVALI, that it's largely attributed to those who are vaping THC and vitamin E acetate. It is noted that the condition peaked in August and September 2020. If you dig a little further you will find that was because there was a cluster of bad THC product in the one area in the US that attributed to the high numbers associated with the problem.

This from Yale Medicine's research into EVALI:

'The primary risk factor for EVALI is current or previous use of a vaping device. **In particular, use of vaping devices that contain THC** have been associated with the condition. According to the CDC, over 80% of people hospitalized due to EVALI reported use of vaping products that contained THC, though many also said they used nicotine-containing products. The CDC further notes that nearly 80% of EVALI patients who used THC-containing e-cigarettes obtained their vaping products from "informal sources" including family, friends, dealers, or online sources, rather than commercial outlets.'

'Fortunately, there has been a substantial drop in cases since they peaked in August and September of 2020. What's more, researchers have also identified vitamin E acetate, a chemical added to some THC-containing vaping products, as the main—but possibly not the only—cause of the illness.'

'Because of this and other studies, **vitamin E acetate is considered the main cause of EVALI**. Other chemicals found in nicotine- and THC-containing vaping products **may** also play a role in the condition.'

- source, <https://www.yalemedicine.org/conditions/evali>

And this,

'A July article published in [The Medical Journal of Australia](#) states that THC-containing products with vitamin E additives are implicated in the pathogenesis of EVALI.'

'The CDC also notes that data showed THC-containing e-cigarette or vaping products, particularly from informal sources such as friends and family, were linked to most EVALI cases and played a 'major role' in the outbreak.'

'Associate Professor Irving says he is unsure if there are any described cases of EVALI in Australia.'

- source <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/what-is-evali>

**So there is still no actual scientific data relating nicotine to this disease. The government bodies are clinging to these reports and are banning an entire industry based on maybes. When other consumer products have been shown to cause cancer and are readily available to the public!!**

We implore the government to see sense, to view vaping as tobacco harm reduction, and to actively work towards the health of your adult smoker population who have made the transition to vaping devices (not disposables), and are reliant on this technology **and flavours** to keep them strong. Your new proposed ban on the vaping industry as a whole isn't going to solve the black market or children vaping problems. In fact the government in its greed and ignorance is taking away our right to this form of tobacco harm reduction. We should be allowed to obtain a satisfying and effective product that doesn't include the unsatisfactory big Pharma vapes with their subpar devices and flavours. The government will have blood on its hands with this decision!

Govt. Bodies that support vaping as a smoking cessation tool:

\*Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

<https://www.ranzcp.org/news-policy/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements/e-cigarettes-and-vaporisers>



## Vaping is 95% less harmful than smoking

<b>2014</b>	<b>NUTT AND COLLEAGUES</b> An expert group led by Professor David Nutt estimated vaping carried only 4% of the harm of cigarette smoking
<b>2015</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND</b> "E-cigarettes are 95% less harmful to your health than normal cigarettes" based on a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence in 2015 and again in 2018
<b>2016</b>	<b>UK ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS</b> A detailed independent review concluded health risks "are unlikely to exceed 5% of those associated with smoked tobacco products, and may well be substantially lower"
<b>2018</b>	<b>NASEM</b> The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine: "while e-cigarettes are not without risks, they are likely to be far less harmful than conventional cigarettes"