

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

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We have a proven safer smoking substitute, it is not 100% safe, we all agree on this, but no doctor could honestly say that vaping even approaches the dangers of smoking. I urge you to watch the 'Miracle or Menace' documentary by Michael Mosley.

So we now have the logic defying situation where the government is determined to stamp out the safer alternative, whilst the cancer sticks can still be bought absolutely everywhere.

I am now 53, I started smoking, like most of my generation, at the back of the high school oval. I only smoked for around 2 years, but my god was it the toughest thing to quit. The chemicals they add to Tobacco to rapidly release the nicotine are evil, why is Butler not banning those chemicals in tobacco? I really feared I would never get off them.

So teenagers vaping now, well how lucky are they that they are not smoking like we did. They think, like all teenagers, that they are so cool and rebellious risk takers, when really they aint playing with their health and life span like we were, we were playing Russian Roulette, they are playing tiddly winks. Because, unlike the general public, I read the research, and there is very little research suggesting it is increasing youth smoking rates, in fact the research suggests it is lowering youth smoking. It is quite worrying that the government has started a non-scientific fear mongering campaign. I was amazed to hear a teacher at my school telling the class that Vaping is more harmful than cigarettes???. If Butler is worried about this, then make vapes more available, make cigarettes prescription only, and only available at chemists. Make the deadly one hard to access, not the safer alternative.

Vaping is also way less addictive, which I will describe later. Two of my high school mates have paid dearly for their teenage experimentation, one has had throat cancer, 2 heart attacks. The other 2 heart attacks. If they get to 70, hopefully they will not be the 1 in 4 that get lung cancer. They both still smoke knowing it will probably kill them. I tried to get one of them to try vaping, but he said it will cause pneumonia, yes the fear mongering is working.

I consciously took up vaping a few years ago. Whether you believe it or not, nicotine is a very powerful nootropic. It has got a bad name because of cigarettes, but really nicotine without tar and carbon dioxide would be similar to caffeine, and I can no longer have caffeine because I get heart palpitations, so for me at least, nicotine is less harmful. I was playing a lot of Japanese chess at the time, boy did my rating go up when I started vaping. It got to the stage where I hated to make a crucial move without a vape. The former world champion GO player from South Korea would always go out for a smoke during an important part of the game. Look at Einstein and other great thinkers sucking on their pipes, nicotine really is an unfair advantage when the brain needs a little supercharging.

The interesting thing about vaping vs cigarettes is that when I smoked I found 2hrs to be my limit between smokes. After that a terrible sort of hunger took over and my thoughts became more and more focused on getting my next cigarette. With vaping, I usually have a vape in the evening, maybe 5 direct lung hits. I get annoyed because I often forget to vape a couple of days a week. Even though I vape quite high nicotine e juice, it just is such a milder "addiction", but to be honest it is not an addiction, I truly choose to do it and would stop today if research showed it was anywhere near as damaging as tobacco. I don't understand the direct science, but compared to cigarettes it just doesn't seem to create powerful withdrawals, in fact I don't experience any withdrawals.

So the cynic would say, Mark Butler is stomping on vaping, to push vapers back to smoking, and at the same time increasing cigarette tax. He is not doing what NZ is doing, using vaping as part of a masterplan to eradicate smoking, credit to NZ, they are prepared to give up their cigarette revenue. Plain packaging of cigarettes, educating of its harm etc have worked, is pushing the price up again and again and again really working? The poorest in our community have the highest rates of smoking? You only have to go out at night in Toowoomba to watch the poor wretches picking up used butts to make rollies with. With the 18 billion tobacco revenue, why are nicotine replacement therapies in chemists not free, they are really quite expensive, again not making much sense. Revenue is important to any country, but revenue at the cost of Australian lives is abhorrent.

I am a Science graduate and I am still a keen follower of scientific development. I always delve deeper into a topic, and never ever accept hyped up media headlines (this is certainly the case with Vaping) I am not a conspiracy theorist, much the opposite really, but for the first time in my life I am sensing that something really sinister is happening in Australia with these vaping laws.

I can just see Butler next decriminalising Cannabis because of the Green influence. Banning Vapes, decriminalizing Cannabis, that would require some real mental gymnastics to make any sense. If you have ever shared a house with Dope smokers, or been married to one like me, then you will know it is not pretty, it creates useless bums who can't hold jobs and can't look after kids.

Please listen to what I am saying.

Kind Regards,

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