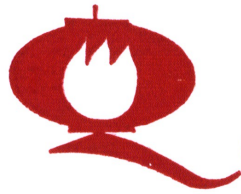


Vaping - An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland

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Dear Legislative Assembly,

Queensland Chinese Forum (QCF) is writing to submit our views and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly relating to the inquire into and report on reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland.

Executive Summary: -

This submission provides recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on preventing e-cigarette use, particularly among children and young people. The submission recommends a range of measures, including the following:-

1. Banning disposable vapes.
2. Restricting the places where vaping is allowed to buy, sell and use.
3. Regulating related advertising on all platforms, including social media.
4. Extra resources to related entities to provide education to schools and general public.
5. Extra resources to promote education to school students on managing mental health and dealing with stress, anxiety and depression.

Background and Methodology:

In mid to late 2022, QCF received reports about parents' concerns regarding their children being addicted to vaping. In early 2023, QCF discussed the topic and identified E-cigarette use has become increasingly popular among Australia-born Chinese and overseas student in school in recent years, with many attracted to the variety of flavors. perceived lower risks compared to traditional cigarettes and the belief that vaping is a tool to reduce stress and anxiety.

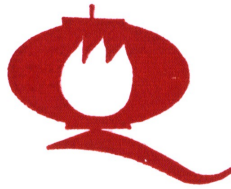
We further identify vaping carries its own risks, including exposure to harmful chemicals, nicotine addiction, and negative impacts on mental health. These are all scientific facts that opposite to what our children and young people's perception about vaping.

To inform our recommendations, we sought opinions from all our 16 member associations and their respective members which total approximately 1000 individuals. We all unanimously agreed and appreciated that the government is taking a proactive approach and changing associated legislations to protect our young people.

Our recommendations

It is our submission that the government should consider the following submissions.

1. Banning disposable vapes



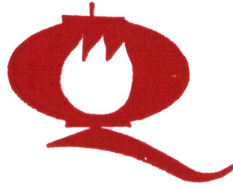
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- a. In line with the federal government initiative, we support the ban of all disposable, recreational use of vaping/e-cigarettes should be banned altogether.
2. Restricting the places where vaping/e-cigarette is allowed to sell.
 - a. If banning the use of vaping/e-cigarette is not possible due to any reasons, the selling of vape/e-cigarette must be restricted to places where the government can track and enforce control when needed.
3. Regulating related advertising on all platforms, including social media.
 - a. Any advertising on any digital platform, social media and print media must be banned which includes the use of celebrities or influencers to promote their products.
 - b. Product placement or commercial sponsorship in any forms should also be banned.
 - c. Similar to alcohol/wine website in some jurisdictions, any access to the e-cigarettes products or related products/accessories webpage should impose age verification
4. Provide extra resources to related entities to provide education to schools and general public.
 - a. While the different flavors of e-cigarettes raises curiosity to our young people, we submit that it is the misperception about vaping being harmless that poses a significant problem.
 - b. Swift and targeted education should be performed in all Queensland schools to educate the real harm that e-cigarettes cause to health.
 - c. Education should also focus on debunking the myth about vaping can provide certain mental relief or relaxation to problems our generation face.
5. Provide extra resources to promote education to school students on managing mental health and dealing with stress, anxiety and depression.
 - a. Further resources should be funded and implemented to support young people's mental health at school.
 - b. School should provide some additional facilities besides counselling, as counselling is seen and related to problems. Children and young people should be coached and trained to deal with difficulties, stress, anxiety, and positive thinking as part of the school program.

Conclusion and Future Committee Hearings

Upon discussion, QCF unanimously agree and submit that stricter legislation is necessary and more targeted education in Queensland school is necessary. Although, any changes or our submissions may not affect the black market. However, if the government does not act swiftly on this issue, our next generation is going to be at more risks and it will become a huge social and economic burdens or worse, disaster for the Australia populations. It is critically important for our community, particularly



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the next generation, to understand the law endorse the same values and the law will not tolerate vaping/e-cigarette now and in the future, because it is damaging, not only to the individual, but to the public as a whole.

Finally, should the opportunity arise at the later committee hearings, QCF would like to have its representative to attend and present our findings and views on this upcoming reform as we strongly support the proposed reform and the causes behind.

Your Faithfully

Mr. Clement Sham, President – Queensland Chinese Forum