

Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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**Submission to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's inquiry
into the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

By

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About the submitter:

Dr Michelle Jongenelis is a Principal Research Fellow within the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences at The University of Melbourne. Dr Jongenelis has expertise in health promotion, intervention development and evaluation, behavioural psychology, and clinical psychology. She works across multiple and diverse health-related issues, including alcohol and tobacco control, nutrition, physical activity, and sun protection. Dr Jongenelis sits on the Australian Council of Smoking and Health, and the World Federation of Public Health Associations' Working Group on Tobacco Control. Dr Jongenelis is also an accredited Clinical Psychologist working in private practice.

Declarations:

Dr Jongenelis has not ever received services, assistance, or support (whether monetary or non-monetary in nature) from the tobacco industry and/or e-cigarette industry.

Dr Jongenelis has not ever provided services, assistance, or support (whether monetary or non-monetary in nature) to the tobacco industry and/or e-cigarette industry.

Any opinions expressed are solely those of Dr Jongenelis and do not represent the views or opinions of her employer.

Contact:

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Response:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Queensland's *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*. I commend the Queensland Government on its efforts to strengthen the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* and **fully support** the proposed amendments.

As smoking rates continue to decline, the tobacco industry has diversified. Tobacco companies now invest in and develop vaping products, as these addictive products have the potential to restore market sustainability, boost their sales, and increase shareholder confidence. They target new (and young) consumers using each of the 4 Ps of marketing – product, place, promotion, and price. Along with their allies in the retail sector, they lobby for widespread availability of and easy access to vape products.

In response to rapid increases in the use of vape products among children, the Federal Government introduced laws prohibiting the sale of these products outside of pharmacies. Yet, emboldened by a lack of enforcement and penalties that do not go far enough, our research suggests many retailers continue to flout these laws.

Making it easier for the chief executive of Queensland Health to seize illegal vape products is critical to enforcement efforts. Destroying seized products will also ensure these harmful goods are removed entirely from the community. Importantly, the proposed amendments will ensure the Queensland Government meets its commitments to protect the health of Australians.

I urge the Queensland Government to pass this Bill without delay and to begin enforcement efforts in earnest.