




Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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### **TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise today to speak in support the Tobacco and Other Smoking Product Amendments Bill 2023. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge: the former and current ministers for health, Yvette D’Ath and Shannon Fentiman; the Health and Environment Committee chair; members of the committee; and the committee secretariat and Hansard.

Smoking remains a significant cause of death, disease and health inequality in Queensland. It is a major contributing factor to cardiovascular diseases such as heart disease and stroke. There are too many risks associated with this habit. The long-term effects are often devastating and it does not end well for some. People who smoke are at a very high risk of getting blood clots which can lead to poor blood circulation to the heart, brain or legs. Some end up having their limbs amputated. There is no denying that the effects of smoking are damaging and the cost to lives is enormous.

To put this into the context of dollars, Queensland is spending an estimated \$27.4 billion on hospital and other medical expenses to deal with the effects of smoking. We should also be very mindful that the tobacco industry is growing, and we are seeing this market becoming more innovative in the types and methods of smoking practices emerging in our communities that are designed to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds. Queensland Health advised that the downward trend in smoking is at risk from the increasing trade in illicit tobacco and emerging smoking products and business practices targeted at children and young people, including in relation to electronic cigarettes.

As a parent, I am very concerned about the growing trend of electronic cigarettes. It is a growing phenomenon amongst young people. I have heard many stories of how easy it is to access electronic cigarettes, and it is alarming that young people access e-cigarettes to be a supply point for their peers. The aggressive new marketing of smoking products to young people, including using social media to promote allegedly new safer smoking products such as e-cigarettes, is unfathomable. These products are often illegally imported or manufactured in unsafe or uncontrolled conditions, and therefore they are also unlikely to meet Australian safety standards.