




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Vaping

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.56 am): Our government makes no apologies for cracking down on vapes and drawing a line in the sand to protect young Queenslanders. As I have previously outlined, we have begun raiding illicit retailers. In one day, over 54,000 vapes were seized. Many of these vapes would have otherwise ended up in the hands of young Queenslanders. We have recently seen vapes that look like highlighters, the kind that you would find in any student's pencil case. If that is not shamelessly targeting our children, then I do not know what is.

We have also launched our brand new \$1.3 million anti-vaping campaign aimed at 12- to 17-year-olds, titled There's Nothing Sweet About Vapes. The campaign is being promoted on TikTok and SnapChat, along with online and outdoor advertisements to educate young people about the dangers of vapes. We launched the campaign by encouraging Queenslanders of all ages to simply search for 'Vaping Exposed', and the results in just a couple of weeks have been amazing. So far the campaign has resulted in just under 3.8 million impressions. YouTube ads have been viewed over 110,000 times in two weeks alone. The website is getting great results with over 31,000 visitors so far to find out more about the dangers of vaping. This proves that Queenslanders share our government's concerns about the dangers of vapes and are eager to learn more.

We are not the only ones to have identified vapes as a danger to young people. Minister Mark Butler has said that the federal government is intending to ban the importation of non-prescription vapes, as well as banning single-use disposable vapes. The federal government also plans to increase the minimum quality standards around vapes.

We have to keep up the fight and inform our children about the hazards of vaping and get illegal products off our streets. I look forward to the day when vaping is no longer seen as the cool thing to do, but we have to work together if we are going to prevent a new generation of Queenslanders from going down the road to addiction.