




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) (9.52 am): I have said it before and I will say it again: our government will not stand by and let the next generation of Queenslanders become addicted to nicotine and vaping, we will not stand by and let companies profit from our children by selling them toxic chemicals in bright packaging, and we will not let our hospitals endure decades of unnecessary strain because of the impacts of vaping. Just this week we have seen the Cancer Council publish research showing that more than a third of young Australians vaped and almost three-quarters of parents suspected their child was vaping. This is why we are acting. Today I am proud to table the Palaszczuk government's response to the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry into reducing vaping in Queensland and I am proud that we are accepting all 14 of the committee's recommendations, and I thank the committee for its work.

Tabled paper: Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland, government response [1738](#).

This response is accompanied by a \$28.4 million package to tackle the vaping crisis through stronger enforcement, better education and more support for people trying to quit. This package includes \$2 million this financial year and then \$5 million annually to improve the ability of our public health units to enforce our strict new laws on illegal tobacco.

The Cancer Council found that the accessibility of vapes was the biggest factor driving their uptake, which is why stronger enforcement action is so important. Since we passed our illicit vaping laws in May, we have already seized at least 170,000 illegal vapes here in Queensland worth millions and millions of dollars. This enforcement funding will go towards establishing a joint taskforce with the Commonwealth to better regulate and detect illegal vapes—a key recommendation from the committee's report. An initial investment of half a million dollars will be followed by \$1 million every year to expand the Quitline service, providing more support for people who are trying to quit, and we are pouring millions of dollars into co-designing and rolling out a support program for school-aged children with nicotine dependency, and I want to thank the education minister for everything she and her department have already done in this space. All of this is in addition to the work we are already doing to tackle the vaping crisis, like our advertising campaign targeted at young people which has now been viewed millions of times. I want to again thank all of the members of the Health and Environment Committee for their hard work in producing an excellent report. Thanks to them, we have a blueprint for the future of vaping regulation in Queensland.