

Dear

**Re: Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024**

We are writing to urge you to support the above Bill, which represents a world leading approach to confronting the harms of vaping and will protect the long-term health of children who are taking up vaping in ever growing numbers.

From a medical perspective, evidence of the health risks of vaping is growing rapidly. Despite non-nicotine based vapes being marketed as nicotine free, the reality is that almost all have been shown to have this highly addictive chemical as a key ingredient. The human brain does not stop developing until the mid-twenties and the frontal lobe is highly sensitive to nicotine. Nicotine use has been demonstrated to have negative impacts on cognition, reasoning, and attention while it is also associated with mood disorders. There is strong evidence that vapers who have never smoked are more likely to subsequently to take up smoking than people who do not vape.

Other substances commonly found in vapes include diacetyl, formaldehyde, chlorine, benzene, mercury, and arsenic. These have well understood long term impacts on human health including being a cause of cancer. Unfortunately, because of how vapes have been marketed, there is very little appreciation among the wider population of the addiction they can cause, their long-term health impacts and how they are a pathway to smoking. Children are even more susceptible given how easily they can be influenced by glamorous marketing and peer pressure.

Vaping is now a huge challenge in our schools. It is in danger of being normalised and students have ready access to vapes with so many retail vape outlets opening in close proximity to schools. It is having a very disruptive impact on learning environments and childrens' education while also placing additional strain on teachers and school executives who face a difficult battle to control the use of vapes.

We firmly believe that the passage of the Government's reforms will make a very positive difference. They will prevent access to vapes and effectively remove them from school environments, supporting children in their learning and taking away a significant current burden on teachers. They also recognise that some people will need help in dealing with a nicotine addiction and ensure evidence-based cessation services are accessible including through general practice.

If you would require any further information about the risks of vaping and the impact it is having in our schools, please get in touch with Cindy Wang at the AMA offices on (02) 6270 5400.

Yours sincerely

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Association (ASPA)

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AMA



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Australian Primary  
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