



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care
Therapeutic Goods Administration
via: online form

Submission - Proposed reforms to the regulation of nicotine vaping products

The Young Liberal Movement of Australia is pleased to make this submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration consultation on *Proposed reforms to the regulation of nicotine vaping products*.

The Young Liberal Movement is disappointed that notwithstanding the Albanese Government's Health Minister Mark Butler saying that "I don't think anything is off the table", the terms of this consultation process explicitly preclude the consideration of regulations that are in place in other comparable countries to Australia, including in the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The Young Liberal Movement of Australia supports the regulation of nicotine vaping products as adult consumer products. Current Federal and State regulations for nicotine vaping products are ineffective and are a risk to the health and welfare of Australian nicotine vaping product users.

Australia's current regulatory framework for nicotine vaping products support a black market of illegal, foreign sourced products that put nicotine vaping product users at risk. These markets have zero oversight, and do not comply with strict laws that regulate other nicotine products, such as cigarettes, this includes the exclusion of selling these products to children.

The Young Liberals reject the current regulations as a prohibition. The current regulations do not stop users from accessing nicotine vaping products however do make it more dangerous for users and drives them further away from genuine health support.

The Young Liberals recognise that the consumption of any product which contains nicotine is harmful. However, the use of nicotine vaping products is a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes. Research undertaken by Public Health England found that nicotine vaping products are up to 95 per cent less harmful than smoking cigarettes. The same study found that there is no evidence that nicotine vaping products are acting as a route into smoking for children or non-smokers.¹

While the use of nicotine vaping products is less harmful, they can also assist smokers to help stop smoking. A 2021 review by the United Kingdom's National Health Service found people who used nicotine vaping products to quit smoking, alongside face-to-face

¹ Public Health England (2015), *E-cigarettes around 95% less harmful than tobacco estimates landmark review* (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-cigarettes-around-95-less-harmful-than-tobacco-estimates-landmark-review>)



support, can be up to twice as likely to succeed as people who used other nicotine replacement products, such as patches or gum. The use of nicotine vaping products can help those trying to quit to manage their nicotine cravings. The study also concluded that most current vapers were either former or current smokers.²

The Young Liberals support the reform of the regulations for nicotine vaping products. We believe that access to nicotine vaping products should be in line with other adult consumer products, such as cigarettes.

If the Young Liberal Movement of Australia can assist you any further in relation to the proposed reforms, please contact us at: federal@youngliberal.org.au

Yours sincerely,

Clark Cooley
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² National Health Service (2021), *Vaping in England: 2021 evidence update summary* (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaping-in-england-evidence-update-february-2021/vaping-in-england-2021-evidence-update-summary>)