



12th April 2024

Senator Marielle Smith
Chairperson
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Smith,

Kidsafe Western Australia Inc. (Kidsafe WA) writes to the Committee in strong support of the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024. The Bill will put an end to the youth vaping epidemic by closing loopholes and boosting enforcement, while preserving access to therapeutic vapes for those trying to quit smoking.

Kidsafe WA is the leading independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting safety and preventing childhood injuries and accidents in Western Australia. Injuries are the leading cause of death in Australian children aged one to fourteen, accounting for nearly half of all deaths in this age group. More children die of injury than die of cancer, asthma and infectious diseases combined. Many of these deaths and injuries can be prevented. Kidsafe WA works in the community to educate and inform parents and children on staying safe at home, at play and on the road. Kidsafe WA is a member of the WA E-cigarette Stakeholder group, hosted by Cancer Council WA.

Kidsafe WA has been very concerned about the impact of vaping on young people. As part of the broader Health Promotion Community the availability of vapes to our children is alarming. Kidsafe WA is also concerned with the product safety issues around vaping implements, whether reusable or disposable. This includes the unsafe storage and disposal of the batteries or the very poisonous nicotine.

In Western Australia, the community supports and expects strong action on vaping. By taking a national approach, we will see a decisive end to the illegal importation and supply of non-therapeutic vapes.

Kidsafe WA is pleased to refer to and endorse Cancer Council Australia's submission to the Committee. The submission has been informed by tobacco control expertise from around the country.

If further information is required, please contact Scott Phillips on _____ or at _____

Yours sincerely

Scott Phillips
CEO
Kidsafe WA