



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH (TOBACCO AND OTHER PRODUCTS) LEGISLATION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023*, and the *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023*.

The Western Australian Department of Health (the Department) supports the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) legislation which consolidates and strengthens existing tobacco instruments and introduces new measures to reduce and prevent the use of tobacco and e-cigarette products. The proposed measures build on Australia's existing tobacco legislation and align with the *National Tobacco Strategy 2023 – 2030*.

The Department supports the proposed regulations to further standardise plain packaging and the appearance, features, and contents of tobacco products. It is well established that additives and product design features increase the palatability and attractiveness of tobacco products to new and existing smokers. Features such as menthol, flavour capsules, filter designs, and other novel accessories play a role in facilitating smoking initiation among youth.

There is a significant and growing body of research on the harms of e-cigarettes, and clear evidence that children and adults who have never smoked cigarettes are becoming addicted to e-cigarettes. Research shows that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to take up smoking, compared to those who do not use e-cigarettes. E-cigarette advertising is present across a range of media channels that have broad reach among young people, including social media. The Department supports proposed measures to prohibit the advertising, promotion and sponsorship of e-cigarette products in the same way as tobacco products.

The Department also supports the proposed measures on reporting and information disclosure requirements, permanent bans on certain regulated tobacco items, and strengthened compliance and enforcement provisions, as well as the transitional arrangements set out in the *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023*.

The Department is committed to protecting the hard-won public health gains that have been made in reducing smoking rates and continuing this downward trend for Australia's current and future generations.

If you require any further information, please contact Dr Denise Sullivan, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention Directorate, on _____ or _____

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Dr D J Russell-Weisz
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 September 2023