

This is my response.

Senator Pratt

Thank you for the question.

I believe that both school nurses and family doctors require training in how to recognise and respond to vaping; empathetically and effectively. I have lectured to School Nurses/Practice nurses and as a group they are very engaged and concerned. School nurses have very different roles depending on the age of students and the nature of the school. The Thoracic Society is creating a guidance document that will describe a range of scenarios and this will be helpful. I feel that school nurses should recognise and respond to vaping and be supportive of a family doctor's recommendation or guidance from QuitLine. They are a valuable resource for educators and school leadership.

I do not believe that parents/carers should refer their child who is vaping to a school nurse for primary action.

Older teenagers should feel comfortable to attend a GP themselves if they would do for other health matters.

I trust that this is helpful.

Matthew Peters

COI: I am married to a school nurse who runs the Health Centre at a large boarding school in Sydney. I have had eyes on this problem from the beginning.