



10 April 2024

Ms Apolline Kohen
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au



Dear Ms Kohen

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024.

Australia has made significant progress on tobacco reform in the last decade, but new measures are required to discourage smoking, encourage smoking cessation and to prevent the use of e-cigarettes, particularly by adolescents and young adults.

Cancer Australia strongly supports this Bill which aims to prohibit the importation, domestic manufacture, supply, commercial possession and advertisement of non-therapeutic and disposable vaping goods, irrespective of nicotine content or therapeutic claims.

Cancer Australia's position regarding this Bill echoes that put forward to the Committee in September 2023 in connection with inquiry into the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bills 2023 (submission provided at [Attachment A](#)).

In particular, the Australian Cancer Plan (the Plan), launched in November 2023, is a 10-year national reform agenda designed to improve cancer outcomes for all Australians, and particularly for those groups whose health outcomes are poorest. Achieving equity of cancer outcomes and experiences is fundamental to the Plan's success, including for the 10 priority populations identified in the Plan.

Several priority populations are especially impacted by high rates of smoking and e-cigarette use, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, adolescents and young adults, people in lower socioeconomic groups, people living with disability, and people living with a mental illness.

Cancer Australia emphasises the need for implementation of prescription-only therapeutic vaping goods regulations in a way that ensures equity of access, including for priority populations for whom access to health services may be geographically or culturally difficult.

The Plan's strategic objective of maximising cancer prevention and early detection is underpinned by specific 2- and 5-year actions which align with the proposed vaping reforms:

5-year action

1.5.1. Strengthen the policy and regulatory environment to address known modifiable lifestyle factors and social, cultural, commercial and environmental determinants of health.

2-year actions

1.2.2. Strengthen cancer prevention in broader health strategies and public health partnerships.

1.2.3. Promote translational research on the impact of social, cultural, commercial and environmental determinants on cancer outcomes for priority populations to inform policy and practice.



Cancer Australia will continue to provide trusted health information which supports consumers to minimise their risk of developing tobacco-related cancer. Cancer Australia also has a strong supporting role in delivery of Australia's first lung cancer screening program which includes smoking cessation as a core component.

Cancer Australia strongly supports the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dorothy Keefe PSM MD
Chief Executive Officer