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9 October 2023

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
Department of the Senate  
Via Email: [seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretariat

**Re: Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023, and the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Senate Standing Committee for the opportunity to comment on these very important legislation changes addressing the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023, and the Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions Bill 2023.

The RACGP is a strong advocate for smoking cessation and has invested in the development of resources in this area. The RACGP guide [Supporting smoking cessation: A guide for health professionals](#) addresses many contemporary challenges identified by healthcare professionals. These include e-cigarettes, combination pharmacotherapies, higher dose nicotine replacement therapy, and high prevalence and special needs groups. This flagship resource is currently being updated to reflect further legislative changes around the prescribing of nicotine vaping products.

The RACGP has previously provided detailed feedback on the [Public Health \(Tobacco and Other Products\) Legislation 2023](#) and noted that heated tobacco products were not included among the defined tobacco products under the proposed legislation. The RACGP has [previously voiced concern](#) about the campaigning by Philip Morris International to present heated tobacco products packaged as a safer alternative to smoking combustible tobacco. We note that this concern has not been addressed within the current consultation.

*Recommendation:*

1. Heated tobacco products must be included among the defined tobacco products under this legislation and adhere to the plain packaging and product requirement legislation.

In addition to the above recommendation, the proposed advertising and sponsorship prohibitions relating to tobacco also apply to e-cigarettes is strongly supported by the RACGP. In addition to this, we recommend stronger provision to stop tobacco and/or vaping industry donations to political parties or individual politicians. These provisions need to apply to entities that might be acting on behalf of the tobacco and/or vaping industry.

*Recommendation:*

2. Prohibit tobacco and/or vaping industry donations to political parties or individual politicians

The RACGP thanks the Senate for the opportunity to comment. If you have any queries please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, eHealth, Quality Care & Standards on \_\_\_\_\_ or at \_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely

**Dr Nicole Higgins**  
**RACGP President**