

Dear committee members

I am writing to voice my concern about the current legal status of nicotine containing E-cigarettes within Australia.

I am a current user of e-cigarettes, I have made a complete switch from traditional combustible tobacco cigarettes and as a direct result have not smoked a single cigarette in two years.

With current evidence I find it outrageous that a country such as ours would continue to outlaw a technology with the potential to save thousands of lives, while continuing to allow the most deadliest form of nicotine, in cigarettes, to remain readily available at every corner store and supermarket.

I have three young daughters (8, 7 & 3yo) and after trying every current quitting aid available with no success, I tried an e-cigarette. Without the access to these lifesaving devices I would surely still be an 25 a day smoker. Since switching (which was relatively painless I might add), I no longer have coughing fits, trouble breathing, my blood pressure has decreased dramatically and I no longer have sleepless nights worrying about not living to see my daughters grow up.

The Royal College of physicians reports that e-cigs present 95% fewer harms than traditional cigarettes and recommended they be promoted as widely as possible.

I believe every smoker deserves the choice to make the switch to a device already helping millions of smokers world-wide. Because for many... Without this option there is only cigarettes and in turn illness and disease.

Surely no Government on Earth would knowingly force such devastation on any of its citizens... Let alone a friend or loved one?

Please... Help preserve our life, don't ask us to throw it away.

Sincerely,

Brad Ringersma.