

Response to questions on notice: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

**QoN 01 Are you aware of Australia’s obligations under Article 5.3 of World Health Organisation’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control “*in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law*”?**

Yes, we are aware of Article 5.3.

We are also aware of key benchmarking set by COAG and Priority 9: Improve access to evidence-based cessation services.

**QoN 02 Have you or your organisation received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from any parties involved in the production, distribution or sale of tobacco, nicotine or vaping products?**

*Please provide details of that support, including:*

- a. the nature of that support;*
- b. the amount or value provided;*
- c. the name of the entity or person providing it; and*
- d. any other related information.*

None of the named people on the submission from NDARC have received direct funding from the tobacco or vaping industry.

Dr Ryan Courtney’s research has been supported by competitive grants e.g. predominately government sector (i.e. NHMRC) and free from any entity connected with tobacco, nicotine or vaping products.

Whilst working at the University of Auckland (2005-2008) Professor McRobbie was an investigator on the following studies:

- (1) A study of electronic cigarettes from a pharmaceutical company that manufactured e-cigarettes (Ruyan Group, Beijing and Hong Kong). Ruyan supplied the electronic cigarettes used in the trial and contracted with an independent company (Health NZ Ltd.) to undertake the study. Health New Zealand Ltd funded The University of Auckland to conduct the trial, independently of Ruyan Group (Holdings) Ltd. The trial design conduct, analysis and interpretation of results were conducted independently of the sponsors. The value of funding was NZ\$187,907
- (2) ASCEND EC trial that was funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. The trial used product that was supplied at no charge from PGM international, a retailer of electronic cigarettes. Unknown value but assuming each product was \$50, then estimate around \$25,000.

The question asks about parties involved in the products of nicotine products. Although we do not believe that the intention of Article 5.3 is to include medicinal nicotine products manufactured by the pharmaceutical industry, in the interest of transparency

Professor McRobbie would like to declare that:

- (1) In 1999, whilst he was employed by Queen Mary University of London, he was a research assistant on a randomised controlled trial of a nicotine lozenge for smoking cessation. This study was funded by GlaxoSmithKline, manufacturers of nicotine replacement therapy.
- (2) Whilst he was employed by the University of Auckland (2005-2008) he was an investigator on a randomised trial of novel nicotine replacement therapies on tobacco withdrawal symptoms and user satisfaction. This was an investigator-led project funded by both NicoNovum, the pharmaceutical company that manufactured the study products, and the National Heart Foundation of New Zealand. RJ Reynolds later purchased Niconovum AB sometime after our study was completed and published. The value was GBP 66,000.
- (3) Whilst he was employed by Queen Mary University of London (2008-2014) he was an investigator on a trial that examined the use of a combination of a nicotine patch with varenicline. The study was supported by an investigator-initiated grant from Pfizer, who also supplied varenicline. Nicotine and placebo patches were supplied by McNeil at no cost. The two pharmaceutical companies had no involvement in the design and conduct of the study, analysis and interpretation of the data, or preparation of the manuscript.
- (4) Between 2002 and 2017 he received honoraria for speaking at smoking cessation educational events that have been funded by the manufacturers of nicotine replacement therapy. These manufacturers were the following pharmaceutical companies: Pharmacia; GlaxoSmithKline; and Johnson & Johnson. Most of these honoraria were paid to the organisations that Dr McRobbie was working for at the time. Dr McRobbie does not have record of the precise values or dates of these engagements.
- (5) He was an investigator on a trial that examined the effect of nicotine patch use prior to quitting smoking. This trial was funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment, but Glaxo Smith Kline donated nicotine patches to the NHS in lieu of NHS treatment costs. GSK had no role in design, analysis, or decision to publish.

Dr Stockings conducted a randomised controlled trial of a smoking cessation intervention for people with a mental disorder, of which part of the intervention comprised nicotine replacement therapy, provided in-kind by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). GSK had no role in the study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, or writing of the publications.

**QoN 03**

Have you or your organisation, received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from associated entities of tobacco companies?

No.

If yes, please provide details of that support, including:

- a. the nature of that support;
- b. the amount or value provided;
- c. the name of the entity or person providing it; and
- d. any other related information.

**QoN 04**

Have you received any assistance, or liaised or consulted with, any other person or organisation in the preparation of your evidence to this inquiry?

No.

If yes, please provide the details of any persons and/or organisation that assisted, or with whom you liaised or consulted, in the preparation of your evidence to this inquiry, including:

- a. the name of the persons or organisation;
- b. the ABN or CAN, if applicable; and
- c. any other related information.

**QoN 05**

Did you make inquiries as to whether the persons/organisations you consulted or liaised with receive any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from parties involved in the production, distribution or sale of tobacco, nicotine or vaping products?

No.

If yes, please provide the details of those inquiries, including:

- a. what assurances were sought;
- b. dates of those inquiries; and
- c. whether they were made in written form or orally.

**QoN 06**

Have you, or any organisation with which you are associated, received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from the following organisations, or persons associated with, the following organisations:

- a. The Institute for Public Affairs;
- b. Centre for Independent Studies;
- c. The Sydney Institute;
- d. Australian Taxpayers Alliance;
- e. Australian Institute For Progress;
- f. Mannkal Economic Education Foundation;
- g. Legalise Vaping Australia; and
- h. any ATLAS network member organisation.

No.

**QoN 07**

Please provide the details of support given by the organisations listed in question 4, including:

- a. name of the organisation;
- b. nature of the support;
- c. amount or value provided; and
- d. any other related information.

Not applicable.

**QoN 08**

Have you consulted, or had any contact with the groups or persons associated with groups listed in question 4, regarding your submission to this inquiry, or regarding your policy on vaping, tobacco, nicotine or any related products?

If yes, please provide the details of the organisations listed in question 4 with which you had contact, including:

No.

- a. name of the organisation; and
- b. what the nature of the contact was.