

**QoN 013-01** Do you agree with Dr Skerritt of the TGA statement that “*the evidence is that vaping is less harmful than tobacco smoking*”?

- a. If no, do you think that the current TGA model does not go far enough?
- b. If yes, do you then agree with the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association’s view that “*The bottom line is that vaping is not risk free and if you don't smoke you shouldn't vape. However, if you are a smoker who can't quit you will dramatically reduce your risk of dying from cancer, heart and lung disease if you switch to vaping*”.

Answer: Yes, I agree with Dr Skerritt: Based on the evidence to date, e-cigarettes are likely to be less harmful than conventional cigarettes. However, I would also note that the long-term health impacts of the devices remain unknown.

I **strongly disagree** with the view of the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association that if you are a smoker who can't quit, you will dramatically reduce your risk of dying from cancer, heart and lung disease if you switch to vaping. There is no evidence at all to support this view. Further, the assumption being made by ATHRA is that a smoker will switch entirely to vaping, yet we know from the literature that many engage in dual use, which does not attenuate risk. Finally, ATHRA is an organisation that has received funding from the vaping industry. I hesitate to agree with those with vested interests and instead prioritise evidence that has come from impartial sources.

**QoN 013-02** Do you or has your organisation ever received direct or indirect support from the Pharmaceutical industry, including travel, attendance at conference, or events sponsorships, including from manufacturers of Nicotine replacement therapies?

Answer: Not to my knowledge.