

Form Letter 2

The following form letter, first received from Mr George Lattimer, was subsequently received, in a similar format with minor variation to content, from an additional 1706 individuals.

From:

George Lattimer

I am writing as a member of the public concerned about the adverse health impacts of tobacco smoking in Australia and the fact that our present laws prohibit smokers from switching to safer alternatives.

Smoking kills and everyone knows that the best solution to reduce harm from smoking is to quit smoking. The most popular and proven-effective aids for quitting smoking are Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) – usually known as “e-cigarettes” or “vaping”. ENDS deliver nicotine which satiates smoker cravings without the deadly tar and particles generated by combustible tobacco smoking as in cigarettes, and with far higher effectiveness rates than other Nicotine Replacement Therapies such as patches and gums that are legal at present. I note that the UK Royal College of Physicians concluded that ENDS is at least 95% safer than tobacco smoking and that “there is no evidence that e-cigarette use has resulted in renormalisation of smoking.”

It makes no sense that tobacco, which is far more dangerous to smoke, remains legal while safer nicotine solutions remain illegal. Public health authorities around the world have recommended vaping as a quit-smoking tool. In the European Union alone, over 6 million adults have given up their cigarette habit by switching to e-cigarettes. Legalising ENDS WILL save hundreds of thousands of Australian lives, and it is time our government acts.

I recognise that appropriate regulatory standards are necessary to ensure that consumers use safe products and support proper regulation. However, our current laws incentivise self-mixed nicotine solutions under unregulated conditions or black market products such as 99% nicotine solutions available online from China. These options carry serious risk of contamination or overdose. Legalising nicotine solutions is what will ultimately make safe regulation possible.

In addition, consumers should be allowed to make an informed choice. Appropriate marketing will ensure that people can vape safely, especially where marketing is targeted towards presenting vaping as a tool for quitting tobacco. Legalising nicotine solutions would also go a long way towards fighting the threat of black market businesses and dealers who may be associated with other illegal enterprises.

Please do the right thing and call for these life saving devices to be legalised in Australia.

Thank you for considering this vital matter,