



Vaping in WA Schools

Presentation for WA Health Promoting Schools Association WA

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Acknowledgement of country



Walking together, learning together, working together - You, me - our journey

In the spirit of deepening relationships, Cancer Council WA acknowledge all the traditional custodians and owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We also pay our respect to their Elders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal peoples living and working in this area.

Cancer Council WA's work on e-cigarettes

- Policy and advocacy
- Submissions to government, parliamentary inquiries, public consultations on law reform
- Commissioning of research
- Industry monitoring and reporting/complaining to relevant authorities
- Unpaid media strategies
- Policy papers drafted to provide a united voice among public health organisations
- National work coordinated through the Cancer Council Federation's Tobacco Issues Committee (TIC)

E-cigarettes and the threat to tobacco control

- Non-smokers who use e-cigarettes are three times as likely to take up tobacco smoking than non-smokers who do not use e-cigarettes
- Most e-cigarette use is not for the purpose of quitting smoking
- High number of e-cigarette users report smoking tobacco (dual use)
- Renormalising smoking
- Tobacco industry interference in policy reform.



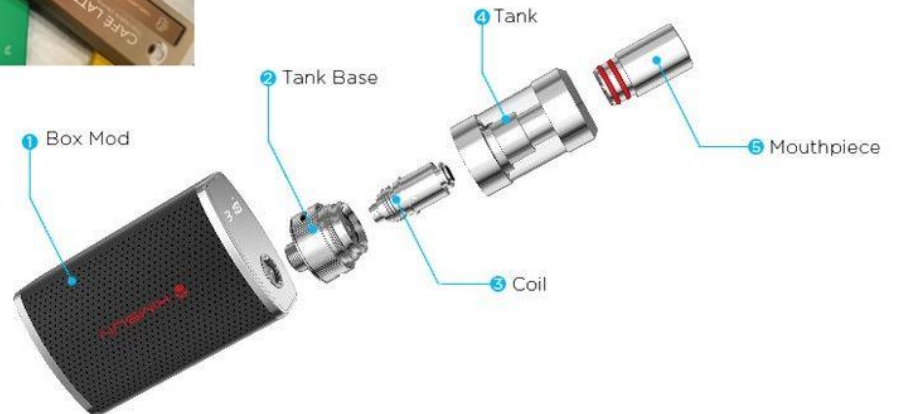
E-cigarettes and the law

Products that resemble tobacco products, including e-cigarette devices and their components, whether or not they contain nicotine, cannot be sold by tobacco or general retailers under the *Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 (WA)*.

It is illegal to sell, supply or possess an e-cigarette or any liquid that contains nicotine in Australia without a doctor's prescription.



What does an e-cigarette look like?



E-cigarettes are harmful products

E-CIGARETTES EVIDENCE ON HEALTH IMPACTS

Use of e-cigarettes (vaping) has increased rapidly in recent years and is greatest in young people. In 2019, about 5 per cent of people aged 18-24 in Australia reported current vaping.

The global evidence shows that use of e-cigarettes can be harmful to health, particularly for non-smokers and youth. For most major health outcomes — like cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental illness — the impacts of e-cigarettes are not known, so their safety for these outcomes hasn't been established.

NOT HARMLESS VAPOUR

There are 100s of chemicals in e-cigarettes, including formaldehyde, heavy metals, solvents, and volatile organic compounds.



CAUSES ADDICTION

Nicotine is highly addictive and exposure during adolescence can change the structure and function of the brain.



A GATEWAY TO SMOKING

3x

Non-smokers who vape are three times as likely to take up regular smoking as non-smokers who don't vape.



SMOKING CESSATION UNCLEAR

Evidence that e-cigarettes are effective for smoking cessation is limited. Most smokers who use e-cigarettes continue to smoke.



CAUSES INJURY

Impacts include poisoning, seizures, burns, and lung disease.

HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT

E-cigarettes contain single-use plastics and lithium batteries, cause pollution and can start fires.

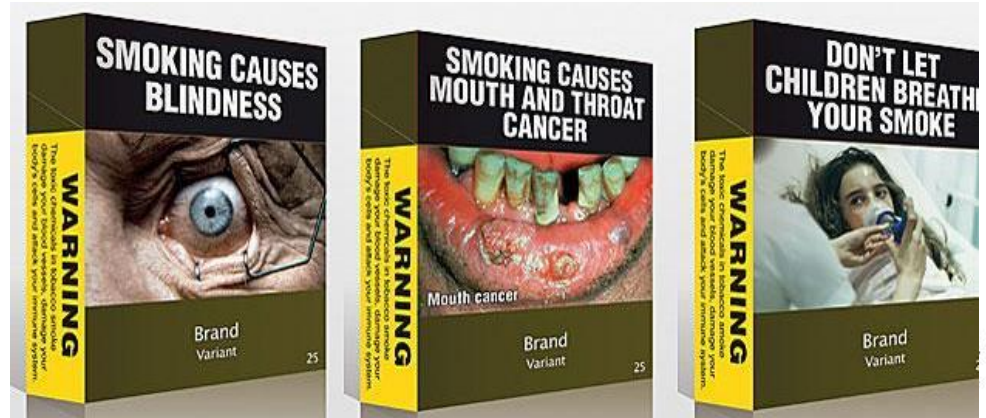
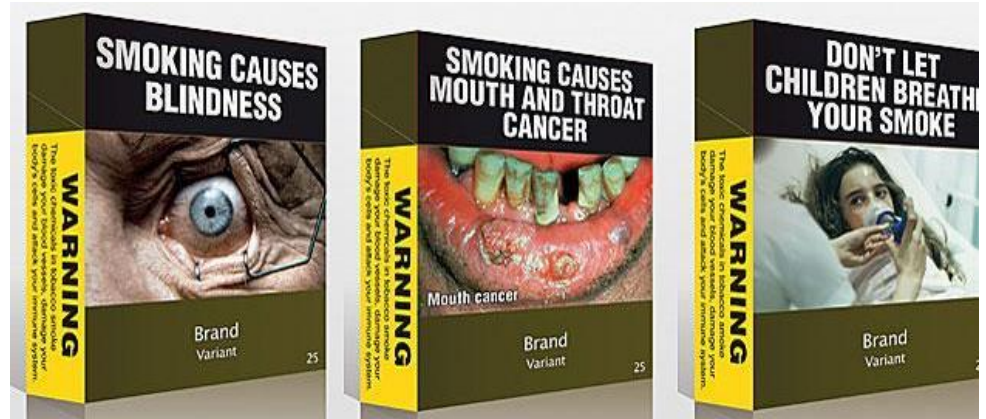
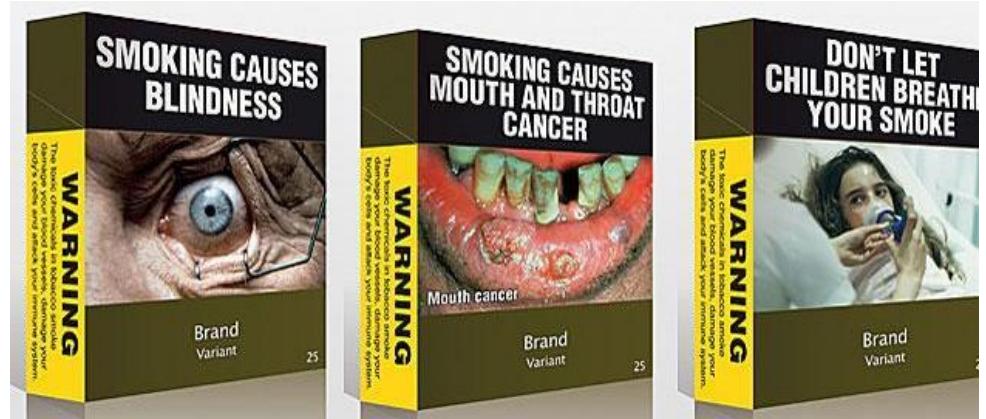


Knowledge translation and visualisation by the PHXchange

Nicotine concentration



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Professor Emily Banks, ANU

The e-cigarette and tobacco industries are targeting young people



E-cigarette use among young people in WA and Australia

E-cigarette use among young people is common and is increasing

Lifetime use of e-cigarettes

- **32.3% of 14-17 year-olds (2021)**
 - NSW residents, CCNSW GenVape
- **7.6% of 15-17 year-olds (2020-21)**
 - ABS NHS
- **21.7% of 18-24 year-olds (2020-21)**
 - ABS NHS
- **18.4% of 18-44 year-olds (2020)**
 - WA residents, HWSS 2020
- **22.3% of 15-24 year-olds (2019)**
 - up from 17.1% in 2016
 - NDSHS, Tobacco tables, Table 2.19
- **14% of 12-17 year-olds (2017)**
 - ASSAD 2017, table 3.11

Current use of e-cigarettes

- **4.8% of 18-24 year-olds (2020-21)**
 - ABS NHS
- **4.5% of 15-24 year-olds (2019)**
 - up from 2.3% in 2016
 - NDSHS, Tobacco tables, Table 2.24

Used e-cigarettes in the last month

- **15.8% of 14-17 year-olds (2021)**
 - NSW residents, CCNSW GenVape
 - (during Covid-19 restrictions)
- **32% of 12-17 year-olds (2017)**
 - ASSAD 2017, table 3.12

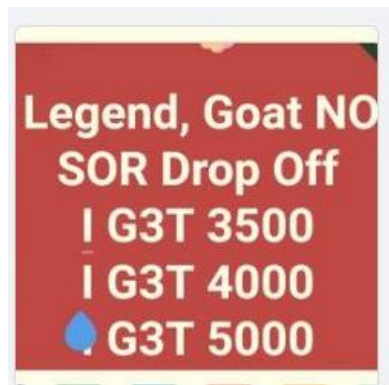
Ease of Access

- Older friends/siblings
- Dealers who connect through social media
- Retail stores e.g. deli, petrol store, convenience store, vape store
- Online purchases

14-17 year-olds: How easy or hard is it for you to get a vape?

Response	n	col %
Very easy	81	34.8%
Easy	38	16.3%
Quite easy	60	25.8%
Neither easy or hard	34	14.6%
Quite hard	12	5.2%
Hard	4	1.7%
Very hard	4	1.7%
Total	233	100.0%

Watts, 2022



A\$30
scent sticks
Perth, WA



Scent sticks 3500 puffs delivered to you

A\$30

Listed a week ago in Perth, WA

Public meetup Door drop-off

Message



Details

Condition New

Flavours available for delivery:

Strawberry lemon ice
Ice cream
Peach ice
Blackberry raspberry lemon
Cherry pomegranate
Cherry blueberry
Double apple
Grape ice
Melon ice
Ice cola
Cherry promenade
Melon ice
Banana pomegranate
Lush ice
Strawberry watermelon ice
Cherry blueberry
Orange mango pineapple ice



Send seller a message

Hi, is this available?

Send

4000 vaping suspensions

Schools in health crisis amid fears primary students sucked in

BETHANY HIATT

Nearly 4000 suspension notices were handed out to kids in public schools for vaping-related offences last year, new figures reveal.

An analysis of Education Department records has uncovered that an astonishing 3732 suspensions were issued for vaping-related incidents, which could include being caught puffing on an e-cigarette or being in possession of vape implements.

The release of the shocking data came as WA's peak parents'

group raised the alarm on a rapid increase in vaping by primary school-aged children.

WA Council of State School Organisations president Pania Turner said parents had reported a rise in the past few months of younger children using vapes.

WACSSO has demanded stronger action by governments to combat problem vaping in a submission to a Therapeutic Goods Association review of vaping.

"It's not enough to say we've got regulations in place, it's the enforcement," Ms Turner said.

"Far from being a senior school issue, parents report primary school-aged children being exposed to vaping on school buses, in school toilets and in social settings outside school," the submission said.

"Parents are deeply concerned about the long-term health and wellbeing impacts that vaping will have on children."

The TGA is investigating proposed reforms to nicotine vaping products in Australia, aimed at preventing their use by children and teens, while still allowing

adults with a doctor's prescription to use them as a tool to quit smoking.

WACSSO said parents strongly opposed the way vaping products were marketed to children using bright colours and sweet flavours.

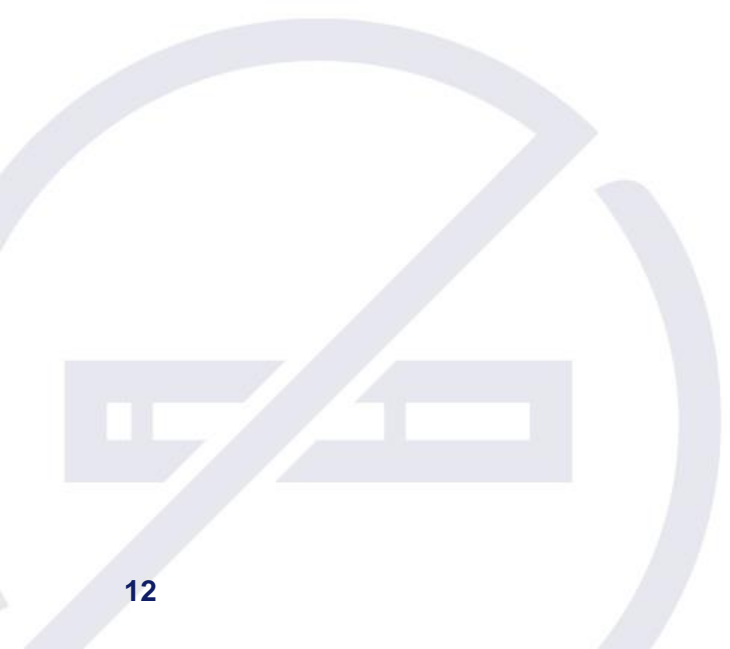
The submission pointed to the Government's responsibility to protect children from "blatant marketing" which was luring young people into "an early and potentially lifelong addiction to vaping".

"WACSSO views advertising campaigns, product setting,

branding and flavouring that target children and young people as predatory and unethical," it said. "Parents do not want their children targeted by companies wishing to entice them to try their addictive and harmful products."

WA's Education Department rolled out an anti-vaping toolkit in high schools in June.

Last week schools in Victoria revealed a litany of serious vaping-related incidents, including a student collapsing and being taken to hospital after inhaling from a vape.



What about school-aged young people?

- Among students aged 12-17 years in WA, the percentage who reported ever-use of e-cigarettes increased from 12.1% in 2014 to 13.5% in 2017
- The next survey (in field this year) will provide valuable insights into the current use of e-cigarettes, which we expect has increased.



School Strategies

- Anti-Vaping Toolkit: teacher, parent and student resources
- School policy on smoking and vaping
- Bathroom detectors (some private schools)
- Confiscation of products
- Disciplinary procedures



Department of Education
Department of Health
GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
VAPING?**

Vapes can have the same harmful chemicals like in cleaning products, weed killer, bug spray and nail polish remover.
They just don't put it on the pack.

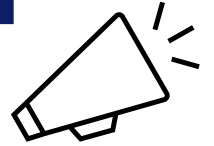
If you need support, speak with your teacher or student services staff at your school.

The Department of Education WA and the WA Department of Health acknowledge ESW's leadership and ownership of these materials.

Gaps and Opportunities

- Prevalence data
- Training for school leaders, school nurses
- How is the toolkit being used by schools?
- Clinical guidelines for vaping cessation in children
- Research on cessation messaging and support for young people
- Better connection with youth development sector and sport/rec
- What are the needs of primary schools?

Anti-vaping Digital Education Campaign



- Healthway has provided funding to Cancer Council WA for an anti-vaping digital education campaign
- Target group: young people aged 14 to 24
- Concept testing to ensure that the campaign will meet objectives:
 - prevent young people from initiating vaping
 - direct young people who vape to quit support
- Social media focus
- Online hub with resources
- Launching later in the year, probably around August

Cancer Council's Policy Asks

NATIONAL

- Seize vaping products at the border unless accompanied by a prescription
- Declare all vaping products 'Prohibited Imports'
- Ban the sale of vapes outside of TGA framework
- Prohibit vaping advertising in a similar way to tobacco products

WA

- Crack down on illegal sales and stockpiling
- Increase penalties
- Clear laws that prohibit the sale, supply, advertising and promotion of vaping products (other than in accordance with the TGA approach)
- Ban vaping in public places where smoking is already banned

Policy update

- Announcement that the Commonwealth will introduce a ban on vaping advertising
- TGA Public Consultation on the Regulation of Nicotine Vaping Products (closed mid Jan)
- Health Ministers' communique 24 Feb:
 - Endorsed National Tobacco Strategy 2023-2030
 - National E-cigarette Working Group
- Funding for WA schools to tackle vaping



Please stay in touch with us!

Join our e-news to stay up-to date

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