

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

5 May 2023

via email: HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

ARA SUBMISSION REGARDING INQUIRY INTO REDUCING RATES OF E-CIGARETTE USE IN QUEENSLAND

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Queensland Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee in relation to its inquiry into vaping.

The ARA is the oldest, largest and most diverse national retail body, representing a \$400 billion sector that employs 1.3 million Australians and is the largest private sector employer in the country. As Australia's peak retail body, representing more than 120,000 retail shop fronts and online stores, the ARA informs, advocates, educates, protects and unifies our independent, national and international retail community.

We represent the full spectrum of Australian retail, from our largest national and international retailers to our small and medium sized members, who make up 95% of our membership. Our members operate across all categories - from food to fashion, hairdressing to hardware, and everything in between.

Some of our members in the supermarket and convenience store segments are retailers of tobacco products and operate in compliance with existing regulation of tobacco. The ARA's membership does not include manufacturers or suppliers of tobacco products and we do not receive any funding from the tobacco industry.

In principle, the ARA strongly supports the regulation of the sale of tobacco products, due to the well-known adverse health impacts these products have on individuals and the community.

In the same vein, we strongly support the existing laws and regulatory frameworks around the sale and supply of nicotine vaping products, that require a prescription and limit retail sale to pharmacy only. Nicotine is known to have adverse health effects and we believe that the policy approach to nicotine vaping products should mirror the policy approach adopted for tobacco products.

If data provided to this inquiry shows that the current policy approach for nicotine vaping products is not effective in achieving public health objectives, the ARA recommends both stronger public health messaging and stricter enforcement around the sale and supply of nicotine vaping products should be implemented in Queensland.

Finally, the ARA notes and welcomes the [announcements](#) made by the Commonwealth Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler, MP on 2 May in relation to funding for enforcement of current regulations as well as the introduction of further measures to restrict sale of e-cigarettes to pharmacy only and prohibit the general retail of other vaping products in order to prevent uptake of vaping, particularly among children.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee. Any queries in relation to this submission can be directed to our policy team at policy@retail.org.au.