

Supplementary Questions: Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) NSW & ACT

1. Are the Australian Government's proposed vaping reforms well understood and supported by general practitioners?

The RACGP has over 40,000 members, some of whom are GPs with a special interest in nicotine cessation, and who have additional expertise in this area and who are experienced and comfortable in prescribing vaping products. Most GP are likely to understand the proposed vaping reforms, and process for prescribing nicotine vaping products. GPs routinely learn about nicotine cessation as part of the RACGP training program and have access to evidence-based guidelines, including the range of options (advice on cessation, nicotine replacement therapy, other pharmacotherapies). Some GPs may be cautious about prescribing a non TGA approved product.

2. What training and resources are offered to general practitioners to help them understand when to consider prescribing an e-cigarette and how to counsel patients trying to quit smoking?

The RACGP produces an evidence-based guideline on smoking cessation, which has been updated to include information regarding e – cigarettes.

This is available to all health professionals online, and is the main guide included in RACGP training, and also frequently accessed in Australian university health education.

<https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines/key-racgp-guidelines/view-all-racgp-guidelines/supporting-smoking-cessation>

Webinars on vaping reforms, featuring RACGP EAG member lead Prof Nick Zwar, have been advertised and delivered to GPs nationally. The RACGP routinely runs educational webinars on a range of topics. The RACGP national journal, the Australian Journal of General Practice (which is available at no cost online) has published a guide to use of vaping products for GPs. <https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2022/july/an-update-on-vaping-and-nicotine-prescribing>