

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY Committee on Law and Safety

7 August 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

E-cigarette regulation and compliance in NSW

Vaping is a significant public health challenge. Communities expect tough action to stem the rise in vaping and to ensure that e-cigarettes do not find their way into the hands of children.

The Legislative Assembly's Committee on Law and Safety today tabled its report on e-cigarette regulation and compliance in New South Wales. The report makes 10 findings and 13 recommendations.

Committee Chair and member for Mount Druitt, Mr Edmond Atalla MP, said that vaping has become a significant public health issue.

"The widespread availability of e-cigarettes has contributed to a culture of youth vaping that threatens to undermine important progress made in tobacco control," Mr Atalla said.

"Single-use vaping products are addictive and deliberately designed to appeal to young people. There can be high nicotine levels in disposable e-cigarettes, which are often not reported on the product label. These are not safe products."

The Committee has recommended that the NSW Government consider providing more resources to NSW Health to undertake more extensive enforcement and compliance activity.

"Regulation alone won't change community perceptions and behaviours around vaping – we also need to get targeted information out to communities."

"We've recommended that the NSW Government develop an online tool or app to provide a 'one stop shop' for information about vaping and support for cessation for young people. Also, the NSW Department of Education should explore opportunities to encourage peer-led learning about vaping in schools."

"Health promotion interventions need to be suitable for the audiences they're targeting. This can be achieved by NSW Health working closely with the community services sector to identify the needs of vulnerable communities and co-design public health campaigns around smoking and vaping with target audiences."

The Australian Government's reforms to limit the supply of, and access to, e-cigarettes were considered during this inquiry.

"Much of this inquiry took place in an uncertain policy context. With the passage of federal legislation to ban recreational vaping, it's now very clear that change is happening."

"We hope the evidence gathered, and recommendations made as part of this inquiry will contribute to positive change in attitudes towards vaping," Mr Atalla said.

The report can be found on the Committee's webpage.

Media contact: Mr Edmond Atalla MP, 9625 6770