

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Portfolio Committee No. 5 Justice and Communities

Inquiry into the Illegal Tobacco Trade

20 February 2026

QoN Number: 3

Subject: Research undertaken on other countries' therapeutic regulated market for nicotine vapes

Asked by: Cate Faehrmann MLC

Question:

Could you just provide as well what research you have undertaken? You said quite emphatically that from your research there is no other example in terms of what you said. Which countries have the therapeutic regulated market for nicotine vapes that you're referring to?

Answer:

The Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, Amber Shuhyta, clarified that her comments regarding harm minimisation examples were in relation to general drug strategy (as recorded on page 6 of the Hearing's transcript).

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Portfolio Committee No. 5 Justice and Communities

Inquiry into the Illegal Tobacco Trade

20 February 2026

QoN Number: 2

Subject: Global evidence on effects of strengthening law enforcement

Asked by: Cate Faehrmann MLC

Question:

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: We hear a lot of this because the media units do go a bit crazy when this kind of stuff happens. Going back to the commissioner, what's the evidence? Where is the global evidence that strengthening law enforcement is going to make any difference on what people can purchase on the illegal market when it comes to tobacco? What is that evidence?

AMBER SHUHYTA: I don't have the references in front of me, but I know that the one that comes to the top of my mind is a World Bank report—and I'd be speculating if I put the date there in front of you—that looks at countries around the world and the evidence around enforcement strategies and strengthening the—I'm trying to remember the words that Mr Fitzgerald just said in terms of increasing the consequences, making it a more hostile environment for organised crime. This is an organised crime issue. We have police around the country looking at dismantling organised crime networks. There are a lot of things driving and motivating organised crime to push on the tobacco market, including, as I've said before, an overabundance of cheap supply and their sophistication in terms of supply chains.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: A couple of things. Firstly, could you provide the evidence on notice? You said you're struggling to recall that. Secondly, in relation to the therapeutic-only nicotine vapes—and again, I feel like we've got the evidence here in Australia. The evidence, you would think, is the very high excise and the prescription-only vapes which are driving this incredible illegal market. I think quite a few other countries' experts are also looking at that because we're providing this example. What has been your advice to the Government around the prescription-only nicotine vape situation and whether that's working?

Answer:

The title of The World Bank report is 'Tobacco Tax Reform At the Crossroads of Health and Development: A Multisectoral Perspective'. The full report is published and available at the following link:

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/491661505803109617>

The Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, Amber Shuhyta, answered the question regarding vapes - as referenced in the third paragraph of the excerpt provided for this question on notice - in session (as recorded on page 6 of the Hearing's transcript).

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Portfolio Committee No. 5 Justice and Communities

Inquiry into the Illegal Tobacco Trade

20 February 2026

QoN Number: 4

Subject: Top priorities for demand reduction report

Asked by: the Hon Nichole Overall MLC

Question:

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Just one really quick one for Ms Shuhyta. You talk about in your four points that you've put forward in your report to demand reduction. What are the top priorities in how that might be achieved to reduce the demand for the illegal product?

AMBER SHUHYTA: The tobacco and nicotine consumption rates are definitely a big part of what's driving an illicit market. We need to continue downward pressure on demand. That's in terms of through campaigns, through nicotine replacement therapy, through wraparound support for addiction.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: Are there campaigns? Are there current education awareness campaigns? It seems to be some time since there's been a broad move towards that.

AMBER SHUHYTA: I can find those for you, if you like. I can read them out.

The Hon. NICHOLE OVERALL: No, that's okay. You can take that on notice. We don't have a lot of time.

Answer:

The current overarching education awareness campaign is called 'Give Up For Good,' and incorporates the National Tobacco and E cigarette Campaign (NTEC) and The Youth Vaping Education Campaign (YVEC).

The campaigns highlight the health harms of smoking and vaping, while connecting the community with support services and tools to support smoking cessation.