

12 May 2023



Re: YourSay Consultation on the proposed new tobacco and e-cigarette regulations

[Proposed new tobacco and e-cigarette regulations | YourSay](#)

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public's health in Australia and seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health.

Public Health Association of Australia is pleased to provide input on the proposed changes to regulations regarding tobacco and e-cigarettes. South Australian Government, through Drug and Alcohol Services SA has consistently employed evidence-based tobacco control strategies including policy and well-developed social marketing campaigns to drive down smoking rates. South Australia is now in the position where daily smoking rates are now below 10% and more is required to reduce rates further. Also, despite much progress in tobacco control, youth vaping has increased in recent years.

PHAA strongly support the proposed changes to reduce consumption of tobacco and e-cigarettes to reduce harms of these products in our community. These changes will also act as a valuable safeguard for non-smokers in the community. Banning tobacco vending machines, regulating sales to minors, and regulating Merchant's License will further protect children by preventing easy access to tobacco products. Moreover, the measures to prevent smoking or vaping in close proximity to early childhood premises, education and children's services facilities, underage sporting events, swimming facilities, jetties, and between the flags on beaches, will reduce exposure to second-hand smoke among children and serve to further de-normalise smoking in our community.

Prohibiting smoking or vaping in the vicinity of designated aged care facilities and regulating smoking in prisons or place of detention will also protect some of our most vulnerable community members. The suggested changes, including expiation fees and penalties for breaking the law will continue to protect all South Australians by promoting quit attempts and reducing the daily smoking and e-cigarette consumption rates among high prevalence groups.

Along with the proposed reforms PHAA would also encourage the Government to consider acting on reducing the density and number of existing tobacco retail outlets. There are various models to do this, and experiences from overseas that likely could be implemented in South Australia. Currently tobacco products are a readily available consumer product and reducing availability will assist those trying to quit, reduce access to younger populations and likely increase motivation to quit. Moreover, we also recommend that the proposed regulations be supplemented with increased funding for compliance officers in the Public Health Division of the Department for Health and Wellbeing. Improved compliance checking, especially for 'sale to minors' and 'non-smoking venues' legislations will result in better implementation and effectiveness of the suggested reforms in South Australia.

Public Health Association of Australia congratulates the Government of South Australia for being proactive in taking these important steps towards protecting the communities from the harms of tobacco and e-cigarette consumption. We give our full support to the proposed changes and would be happy to participate in any associated media should they be implemented. Further, we eagerly anticipate further opportunities to work with SA Government to minimise the harms of tobacco and e-cigarettes in our community. For inquiries related to this submission, please feel free to contact me at SAPres@phaa.net.au

Sincerely

Prof Jacqueline Bowden

President SA PHAA