

My name is _____, I'm 39 years old, I'm a miner, I love in _____
and I'm a married father of 3.

I had been a smoker for 24 years, smoking a pack of 40's a day and between myself and my wife smoking two 40 packs per day our monthly cigarette costs out of each pay were \$2800 per month.

I also suffered with multiple and recurring bouts of bronchitis and early onset emphysema.

Over the years many attempts to quit via traditional methods had been made using patches, gum, Nicotine spray, cold turkey, Bupropion and finally Varenicline, unfortunately none of them worked over the many attempts throughout the years.

I gave up on the thought of being able to quit until I was introduced to vaping through a friend.

I started vaping fruit flavours and a week after I started vaping, I quit cigarettes and successfully for the first time in my life. I now haven't had a cigarette in over 5 months and have saved over \$12,500 in that time.

My health has improved and my lung function and health according to my GP has improved incredibly well. I have not been sick since I quit cigarettes, my breathing is better, I no longer have the smokers cough I suffered with for years, I can run endurance and my shortness of breath is gone.

Since my wife and I have made the switch to vaping, besides the physical benefits we both now reap, we are in a better place financially, our 3 children say we no longer stink and feel happier knowing that we are reducing our risks of cancer and after losing their grandmother to stage 4 lung cancer after smoking for more than 40 years.

If nicotine were to be only made available through importing via a pharmacy/GP, then we would unfortunately look to seeking our nicotine via less reputable means or we would ultimately go back to smoking cigarettes. Doctors and pharmacies we have so far approached with the upcoming ban, have already stated that they will not be participating in the new prescription and importation model and for us, that would leave us with little choice and force us elsewhere.

I would like to see Nicotine regulated but available to over 18's only from Vape stores, in childproof containers with product safety standards in place.

As it stands it makes no sense that cigarettes are legal and available everywhere, nicotine replacement therapies are available everywhere and to under 18's, but nicotine e-liquid is not available to those over the age of 18 who wish to use it as a safer reduced harm in the efforts to quit traditional cigarettes, where in other countries, it is available from kiosks in hospitals and in other countries it is advocated as an acceptable and preferred means to cigarette cessation.

Please allow adult Australians to make their own informed choices.

Thankyou.