

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE USE AND MARKETING OF
ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND PERSONAL VAPORISERS IN AUSTRALIA

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We write further to our submission of July 6th to the Inquiry into the Use and Marketing of Electronic Cigarettes and Personal Vaporisers in Australia.

We are aware that the Committee will have been working on its report, no doubt largely on the basis of submissions and evidence from its hearings.

We are, however, also very conscious that since submissions closed on July 6th there have been a range of important publications, reviews and reports, which could not be included in those submissions or addressed in the committee's hearings. The clear burden of these is to add yet further weight to the concerns we and others have expressed, while also contrasting markedly with submissions and evidence to the committee from tobacco companies, associated groups and other advocates for e-cigarettes from both Australia and overseas.

We believe it is particularly important that the Committee takes full account of evidence and reports that have emerged since the July 6th closing date for submissions. By some way the most important of these is the report of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (released on January 23rd), which provides the most thorough, extensive and authoritative review of the evidence in this area. We attach a copy of the NASEM report and the summary of conclusions by level of evidence.

The NASEM report and conclusions fully justify the position taken by the Ministerial Alcohol and Drug Forum, representing all Australian governments (also attached) which concluded

that “Members noted that the current evidence base in relation to e-cigarettes supports maintaining and, where appropriate, strengthening the current controls that apply to the marketing and use of these products in Australia. Members agreed to national guiding principles which reflect a precautionary approach to e-cigarettes and affirmed the current national regulatory framework remains appropriate”.

As noted above, and as the Committee will be aware, there have been many further important and relevant publications over recent months, and we would also be happy to provide further information on these so that they can be considered if that would be of assistance.

We urge the Committee to take full account of the NASEM report and conclusions, and to take account of and support the evidence-based position recently taken by Australian governments.

We would be grateful if this could be treated as a supplementary submission.