

QoN 001-01

In your opinion of the data available, has there been a significant increase in the use of e-cigarettes by school children in the last years, especially among Maori youth?

Answer

The key behaviour is daily e-cigarette use because this differentiates experimental from dependent use of e-cigarettes.

The latest (2019) ASH Year ten data indicate that daily e-cigarette use is very low at 3.1%, with an increase from 1.8% from 2018 with statistically significant increases for all ethnicities, males and females, and students from mid and high (most advantaged) decile schools.

Among non-smokers less than 1% of year ten students use e-cigarettes on a daily basis in 2019.

QoN 001-02

Is it appropriate for nicotine to be regulated within a health department rather than commercial setting?

Answer

Yes, although I do not have knowledge of the Australian regulatory possibilities.

The New Zealand approach is to regulate vaping via the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment legislation passed in August 2020. The Ministry of Health is responsible for developing the regulations specified in the legislation.

The New Zealand Government treats vaping as a consumer issue with the potential to reduce the harm from smoked cigarettes by encouraging switching to less harmful products. From a public health perspective this is a sensible approach, given the enormity of the burden of death and disease caused in New Zealand by smoked cigarettes. The legislation attempts to balance the aims of encouraging adult cigarette smokers to switch while protecting young people from vaping.

QoN 001-03

Do you believe it is appropriate for Australia to regulate nicotine through the Therapeutic Goods Administration?

Answer

See my response to question **QoN 001-02**

QoN 001-04

Do you believe it would be appropriate for Australia to regulate nicotine through the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission?

Answer

See my response to question **QoN 001-02**