

QoN 013-01 Do you agree with Dr Skerritt of the TGA statement that “the evidence is that vaping is less harmful than tobacco smoking”?

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists’ (RANZCP) position is that e-cigarettes and vaporisers **may** provide a less harmful way to deliver nicotine to people who smoke, thereby minimising the harm associated with smoking tobacco and reducing some of the health disparities experienced by people living with mental illness. It is on this basis that the RANZCP supports the legalisation and regulation of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes to facilitate their use as harm reduction tools.

a. If no, do you think that the current TGA model does not go far enough? b. If yes, do you then agree with the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association’s view that “The bottom line is that vaping is not risk free and if you don’t smoke you shouldn’t vape. However, if you are a smoker who can’t quit you will dramatically reduce your risk of dying from cancer, heart and lung disease if you switch to vaping”.

The RANZCP agrees with the first sentence of the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association’s statement above but does not agree with the second sentence.

E-cigarettes are a relatively new device and there are no long-term studies on the nature and magnitude of the effects of long-term vapour inhalation on people’s health and the research which does exist is conflicting [1].

References

1. MM S, MH W. Tobacco in Australia: Facts and issues. Melbourne: Cancer Council Victoria; 2016.

QoN 013-02 Do you or has your organisation ever received direct or indirect support from the Pharmaceutical industry, including travel, attendance at conference, or events sponsorships, including from manufacturers of Nicotine replacement therapies?

I have nothing to declare in regard to support from the tobacco or vaping industry.

The RANZCP has received support from the pharmaceutical industry at certain RANZCP conferences which is reported in its Annual Reports as outlined in the RANZCP’s [Position Statement 78 on RANZCP engagement with the pharmaceutical industry](#).