



23 November 2020

Senator Stirling Griff  
Select Committee on Tobacco Harm Reduction  
Via email: [tobacoharmreduction.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:tobacoharmreduction.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Griff

Thank you for your supplementary questions to my submission and my appearance before the Inquiry into Tobacco Harm Reduction on 19 November 2020.

In response to the question:

**QoN 016-01**

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements, made by Adjunct Professor John Skerritt of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, during the inquiry's public hearing on 13 November 2020. Please state the reasons for your position.

1. *"I believe that smoking is more harmful than vaping but that does not make vaping harmless - in the same way that being hit by a car on the freeway is less harmful than being hit by a truck but it is not desirable."*

Agree.

2. *"In the same way that we didn't know in 1960 about the long-term effects of cigarettes, because vaping, especially at a significant level, is still a relatively recent phenomenon, the evidence is still fairly scant. However, there are a number of studies published in the medical literature...that have shown detrimental effects from vaping of nicotine cigarettes and also detrimental effects even when the e-cigarettes do not have nicotine, because many of the substances in e-cigarettes were never really intended to be heated up and put into the lungs."*

Agree.

There is accumulating and substantial evidence for the immediate health harms of vaping. The evidence regarding the long-term harms of vaping is not yet available.

As confirmed by Professor Matthew Peters in his testimony before the Committee on Friday 19 November, a study by Maria Flacco and colleagues followed people who vaped for a period of 6 years:

*"At six years there was no difference in potential smoke related events and markers of general health between those who continued to smoke, dual users and those who quit smoking after switching to vaping."*

As you have indicated, it took decades of detailed research to confirm the harms of cigarette smoking with the confirmation that smoking causes lung cancer in 1950, with further evidence emerging over subsequent decades on other harmful consequences of smoking and passive smoking.

Kind regards

Maurice G Swanson OAM  
Chief Executive