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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
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Canberra ACT 2600

Vaporised Nicotine Products Bill 2017

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the outcome of The Vaporised Nicotine Products Bill of 2017.

I will briefly outline my position

To give validity and some perspective to my opinion and then give input on two of the proposed actions. The first is the 20mg per ml proposed and the second is on taxes on Nicotine E Liquid sales.

I am 50 years old, I started smoking at 13 years old. I have been making constant and serious attempts to quit smoking for the past 20 years (since approximately 30 years old,) and in that tried all methods available, cold turkey, patches, hypnosis and medication. Vaping is the only one that has worked.

I had reached a point of sad acceptance that there was no hope to beat this addiction. I was smoking about 45 cigarettes a day and at times unable to walk due to breathing problems. Having fought and eventually accepted this deeply depressing fate, it was actually the price of cigarettes that eventually drove me to change when I could simply no longer afford them.

I was presented with the choice to turn to black market and enable crime by buying stolen cigarettes or look again for another method to stop smoking. Luckily I found vaping information and gratefully chose it.

To find a method to manage this enslaving addiction has been akin to getting out of some kind of life long prison sentence and out from under the most ominous clouds of threat, serious illness, emphysema and cancer and ending up involved in criminal activities etc..

-I am much physically and mentally healthier and able again in my day to day life.

-As a non smoking nicotine addict, I am no longer socially ostracised and shunned, nor discriminated against on any level.

I wish to have my input in two area's of the proposals

The first is the proposed 20mg per ml of nicotine liquid. This is not enough for those with long ongoing addiction. I make this claim from my own experience, vaping E Liquid at 18 and 24 mgs per ml for me at my level of addiction is only slightly better than cigarette patches. I have to have at least (sometimes more,) 36 mgs per ml and in the form of Whole Tobacco Alkaloid Extract (WTA.) This is more than just nicotine extracted from the tobacco plant, it includes small amounts of some of the other alkaloids in the plant and greatly reduces cravings for the strongly addicted.

I propose that 20mg per ml is changed to 50mg per ml.

The second part of my input is to prohibit tax induced price rises, such as has happened with cigarettes in Australia. This for many is a medical condition. Profiteering from addicts is immoral and will only lead to black market crime.