

Minister's Roundtable on Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

15 March 2023 - Communiqué

Experts in tobacco and e-cigarette research came together with South Australian policy makers in health, education and law enforcement to identify and discuss further measures that can be implemented in the State to reduce the impact of smoking and e-cigarettes in our community. The Honourable Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing hosted the Roundtable on Tobacco and E-Cigarettes on 15 March 2023, to explore strategies to further reduce daily smoking and the uptake of e-cigarettes ('vaping').

The Roundtable discussion placed significant emphasis on the need for urgent action on e-cigarettes and vaping, particularly at a national level, with attendees saying that we no longer need to wait for more data to show what we know is already happening. There was also a general view expressed that we need to focus on phasing out the use of tobacco and e-cigarette products. The Roundtable discussed areas for urgent action, including:

Campaigns and public education

- Establishing media campaigns and initiatives for e-cigarettes and vaping to educate the community and users, and for these to run concurrently with tobacco campaigns and initiatives.
- South Australia to request that the Commonwealth Government re-establish national campaigns addressing smoking, and establish a national vaping campaign.

Regulation of products and supply

- Addressing the accessibility and availability of e-cigarettes and tobacco products.
- Establishing laws for removing access to nicotine e-cigarettes, except for those obtained through a medical prescription as a last resort option for smoking cessation.
- Ensuring compliance with the laws in this area and increasing penalties for non-compliance.
- Removing differentiation between nicotine-containing e-cigarettes and e-cigarette products not containing nicotine, as both pose significant health risks.
- South Australia to continue to advocate for a national approach to regulate advertising (and promotion and sponsorship) of e-cigarettes in the same way as tobacco products.

Evidence based cessation services

- Ensuring the health system helps all smokers to quit, including quitting e-cigarette use.
- Addressing e-cigarette use in schools and management of student vaping, including the provision of support to assist students to quit e-cigarettes.

Research, evaluation and enforcement

- Supporting further monitoring and research in South Australia to support health, education and law enforcement.

Minister Picton reiterated his commitment to addressing the very important issue of tobacco and e-cigarette use and advised that the Government will consider the options presented by the Roundtable for further action on tobacco and e-cigarette products.

For more information contact Tobacco Control Unit, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, HealthDASSATobaccoControlUnit@sa.gov.au.