



1st April 2020

Louisa Wall
Chairperson
Health Select Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Copy - Members of the Health Select Committee

Tena Koe Louisa and members of the Health Select Committee

Subject: Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill

Lung Foundation New Zealand Inc. values the opportunity to provide a written submission in relation to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill.

The landscape

Smoking is the leading cause of death, illness and impoverishment in New Zealand.

5000 kiwis die every year in NZ, the result of exposure to tobacco products (that is 14 people every day, or one person every 90 minutes).

Tobacco taxation in New Zealand is amongst the highest in the world;

Overall tax revenue has increased by more than 80% since 2009, yet successive governments have not directed any income from the taxation increases, to fund corrective action/harm minimisation, for example; responsible regulation, cessation support, health promotion, early detection, screening, or modern medicines.

New Zealand's first well-being budget did NOT direct any income from the increase in tobacco taxation into corrective action.

The government, members of cabinet NEED to do better, by resourcing corrective action from the substantial tobacco taxes received by treasury.

Smokefree 2025

Lung Foundation New Zealand is supportive of the goal for New Zealand to be Smokefree by 2025.

We urge the government, including all other political parties, to SCALE UP policies and interventions that we know work to eliminate smoking which is a serious and complex addiction.



Examples of interventions include; advice and support of health care professionals, wrap-around cessation support, nicotine replacement therapies for cessation etc.

Examples of policy include, raising the tobacco age to 21 years, reducing the number of retail outlets etc.

LFNZ is strongly in favour of resourcing programmes that increase complete smoking cessation, rather than encouraging people who smoke to switch their nicotine addiction.

Vaping

The vast range of E-cigarettes / vaping (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or ENDS) products being sold in NZ have not been systemically reviewed to determine their impact on lung health.

The scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness of vaping (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or ENDS) as a smoking cessation aid is still being debated, this is partly due to the diversity of ENDS products and the low certainty surrounding many studies.

Lung Foundation New Zealand is concerned by the evolving evidence about the impact of vaping on the lungs. Both tobacco products and ENDS pose risks to health. The safest approach is NOT to use either.

The potential for ENDS to play a role as a population-level tobacco cessation intervention is unclear and this view is informed by the World Health Organisation.

If New Zealand regulators are truly committed to Smokefree 2025 and to help/support people who smoke to quit, what is a serious and complex addiction, the government MUST scale up policies and interventions that we know work to eliminate smoking (as outlined above).

So far as regulation, vaping should be regulated in line with more responsible regulation of tobacco products in New Zealand.

Thank you for your time to review this submission. The writer too wishes to present in person to the select committee.

Naku noa na

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