



**Media Release**  
**Hon Sarah Game MLC**  
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**Our vaping laws are failing South Australian smokers & young people**

As youth vaping skyrockets & access to the most successful nicotine replacement therapy remains severely restricted, blind Freddie can see that our governments' vaping laws have failed us.

After 12 months of Australia's failed prescription-based model, the results are in:

- Australian youths are vaping more than ever, with Quitline reporting for the first time that 13-year-olds are becoming hooked on nicotine vapes
- At most, 12% of vapers buy their devices legally, according to a recent Roy Morgan survey
- A mere 13 SA GPs are listed on the TGA's website as "Authorised Prescribers"
- The black market is thriving, diverting up to \$200 million in lost tax revenue from government coffers

We are the only western country with such severe restrictions on buying vapes.

We know that smokers from low-SES & Aboriginal backgrounds smoke more heavily & at higher rates. On average, by switching to vaping, regular smokers could save \$13,500 per year.

Given that one half- to two-thirds of continuing smokers will die, I believe continuing this flawed approach is immoral.

To address this, I am introducing the *Controlled Substances (Nicotine) Amendment Bill 2022*.

Rather than continue to punish the finances & health of South Australians with our non-sensical prohibitionist approach to nicotine vaping, this Bill will regulate vapes as a consumer product by exempting nicotine from the *Controlled Substances Act*.

By ensuring strict age verification so that vapes can be sold from retail outlets, the black market of unregulated, uncompliant & potentially dangerous products will be starved.

International scientific evidence confirms that vapes are far safer than cigarettes – up to 95% safer in fact, according to a recent independent report from the UK which reviewed over 400 published studies on the topic.

Rather than effectively ban this much healthier & far cheaper alternative to smoking, our governments need to be promoting it as an effective tool for quitting smoking – as they do by public health agencies in New Zealand & the United Kingdom.

Our current absurd nicotine vaping laws need to be replaced by an alternative that is based on the latest scientific & public health evidence that protects the lives & livelihoods of South Australian smokers.

**Contacts:**

Jarryd Thiel

E: [jarryd.thiel2@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:jarryd.thiel2@parliament.sa.gov.au)

M: 0422 636 885