



# MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

## ACSSO Supports Vaping Legislation Reforms

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) strongly supports the *Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024*, designed to address the growing public health challenge of vaping, particularly among young Australians.

Recent findings from ACSSO's "[The Impact of Vaping Survey](#)" indicate widespread concern about the rise of vaping among students and the associated health risks, including nicotine addiction, respiratory issues, and mental health impacts. A significant majority of respondents (90.48%) advocate for increased education on vaping risks, stricter advertising regulations (82.54%), and the implementation of age restrictions for purchasing vaping products (82.54%).

The proposed Vaping Reforms Bill addresses concerns about the use of vaping products. It aims to amend the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* by banning the importation, manufacture, supply, and advertisement of disposable single-use and non-therapeutic vaping products. With this Bill, access to therapeutic vapes for smoking cessation under medical guidance will be preserved. The goal is to provide a balanced approach to addressing nicotine dependence while curtailing the recreational use of vapes.

ACSSO President Damien Ellwood stated, "The Vaping Reforms Bill is a crucial step towards protecting our youth from the allure and dangers of vaping. It reflects the community's call for tighter control and regulation of vaping products. We particularly support measures prioritising public health and offer genuine solutions to those seeking to quit smoking."

The proposed legislation has considered the opinions and suggestions of various stakeholders, such as health professionals, educators, and families. This demonstrates a nationwide commitment to tackle the vaping epidemic. ACSSO recognises the government's proactive approach and urges swift passage of the Bill to protect the well-being and future of Australia's youth.

"We must act decisively to prevent a new generation from falling into the trap of nicotine addiction," added Damien Ellwood. "Education, regulation, and accessible cessation services are key to turning the tide against vaping among young Australians."

ACSSO calls on all stakeholders, including parents, educators, and policymakers, to support the Vaping Reforms Bill and contribute to a healthier, smoke-free future for Australia's children and adolescents.

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*The Australian Council of State School Organisations is the national voice for families, carers, and communities in government education across Australia. ACSSO advocates for the rights and well-being of students and works towards ensuring quality education for all Australian children.*

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