



# MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **Parents Advocate for Vaping Reforms Bill to Safeguard Youth Health**

Yesterday, Damien Ellwood, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO), and CEO Dianne Giblin, presented testimony before the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, focusing on the critical Inquiry into the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024.

ACSSO strongly supports the *Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024*, aimed at addressing the escalating public health challenge of vaping, particularly among young Australians. Recent findings from ACSSO's "[The Impact of Vaping Survey](#)" have highlighted widespread concerns about the surge in vaping among students and the associated health risks, including nicotine addiction, respiratory issues, and mental health impacts.

The survey revealed that a significant majority of respondents (90.48%) advocate for increased education and information for families 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 the concerns raised in the survey about the supply of vapes by amending the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* to prohibit the importation, manufacture, supply, and advertising of disposable single-use and non-therapeutic vaping products. Notably, access to therapeutic vapes for smoking cessation under medical guidance will remain available. The overarching goal is to strike a balance in addressing nicotine dependence while curbing the recreational use of vapes.

Damien Ellwood, President of ACSSO, affirmed, "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 also support further measures focused on reducing the demand of vapes by prioritizing public health and education and offering genuine solutions to those seeking to quit smoking."

The proposed legislation, informed by input from diverse stakeholders including health professionals, educators, and families, underscores a nationwide desire to combat the vaping epidemic. ACSSO recognizes the government's proactive stance and urges swift passage of the Bill to safeguard 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 public health and cessation services are key to turning the tide against vaping among young Australians."

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

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