

Mr Michael Vaughan
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Ref. DR201216

Tēnā koe Mr Vaughan

Thank you for your email of 21 July 2020 requesting information on vaping under the *Official Information Act 1982*. I understand that you received a response from the Ministry for questions one to five on 20 August. As noted in our email of 22 July, the Ministry decided to answer questions six to nine in the following format as direct correspondence. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

Current evidence indicates vaping products are significantly less harmful than smoking tobacco. Although these products are less harmful than tobacco, they are not harmless. These products are addictive and we do not encourage their use for young people and non-smokers.

Vaping products have the potential to significantly reduce the harm caused by tobacco and second-hand smoke. The current evidence indicates that the prevalence of daily vapers who are non-smokers is relatively small.

As you are likely aware, the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act* was recently passed in Parliament. This Act, which comes into force on 11 November 2020, will amend the *Smokefree Environments Act 1990* to regulate vaping and smokeless tobacco products.

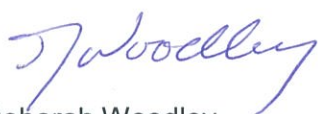
The Act will support the potential for vaping products to contribute to a reduction in harm caused by tobacco. It will ensure that children and young people are protected from the availability of vaping products, while better supporting smokers to switch by ensuring they have access to clear and accurate information on these products.

The Associate Minister of Health, Hon Jenny Salesa, asked the Health Promotion Agency to work with Ministry officials to prepare information for the public on vaping as a way to stop smoking. The Vaping Facts Website (www.vapingfacts.health.nz), which was launched in 2019, provides information and advice about vaping to stop smoking.

With regard to health warnings on vaping products, the Bill enables plain packaging requirements to be set out in regulations, including relevant health warnings. Regulatory proposals on the Bill will be consulted on publicly before they are finalised. You will be able to make a submission on these proposals when the opportunity arises.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is useful, and I wish you well.

Nāku noa, nā



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention