



**Australian Government**  
**National Health and Medical Research Council**



31 March 2023

Dr Colin Mendelsohn  
[mendel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mendel@bigpond.net.au)

Dear Dr Mendelsohn,

### **2022 CEO Statement on Electronic Cigarettes**

I am writing about your recent publication in the journal *Addiction* and in response to your email to me of 22 February 2023.

The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC's) *2022 CEO Statement on Electronic Cigarettes* assessed the benefits and harms of e-cigarette use for the whole population, not only smokers. Although more research is needed, it is clear from the evidence that e-cigarettes can be harmful and, if you are not a smoker, there are no health benefits from using e-cigarettes. The Statement notes that e-cigarettes may help some smokers to quit.

The Statement is based on the best available scientific evidence that has been critically appraised according to best practice methods. The advice was developed under the guidance of an independent expert committee using internationally recognised methods to translate the evidence and reduce risk of bias.

A number of independent experts reviewed the Statement to ensure that the evidence had been appropriately interpreted and synthesised. The NHMRC Council, including all Commonwealth, state and territory Chief Medical or Health Officers, advised that they supported the publication of the Statement.

NHMRC stands by the expertise provided by the Electronic Cigarette Working Committee and the rigorous standards to which the Statement was developed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Kelso'.

**Professor Anne Kelso AO**  
Chief Executive Officer