



24 June 2024

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **Not Tobacconists or Garbologists**

A Bill is currently before Parliament to change the current medicines schedule for nicotine-containing vapes from Schedule 4 (Prescription Only) to Schedule 3 (Pharmacist Only).

The result of the proposed change is that nicotine-containing vapes could be available for purchase through a community pharmacy without the requirement for a valid prescription.

#### **The Guild strongly opposes this proposal.**

Pharmacists are healthcare professionals who dispense medication that provides a proven therapeutic benefit. No vaping product has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration based on its safety, efficacy or performance. No vaping product is listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Vaping has long-term patient harms, including cancer, lung-scarring and nicotine addiction. There is limited evidence to support the use of vaping products for smoking cessation and nicotine dependence.

The Senate's expectation that community pharmacies become vape retailers, and vape garbage collectors, is insulting.

The Senate is about to make a bad decision. We urge the Senate to change course.

Everyone wants to keep illegal vapes out of the hands of kids and teenagers, but the Senate wants pharmacists to stock vapes next to children's Panadol, cold and flu medicine, and emergency contraception.

***All comments are attributable to a spokesperson.***

**-ENDS-**

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