



## Tackling smoking and vaping, and improving cancer outcomes

### Summary of package

**The 2023–24 Budget funds strong action to reduce smoking and vaping rates – particularly among young Australians – through stronger legislation, enforcement, education and support.**

Almost 10% of Australians (2 million adults) still smoke tobacco daily. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in Australia and is responsible for about 21,000 deaths each year.

Vaping is also rapidly increasing in Australia, particularly among young people. Latest estimates show that 1 in 6 teenagers aged 14 to 17 has vaped, and 1 in 4 people aged 18 to 24 has vaped.

Nicotine is highly addictive and poses serious health risks, and medical experts have serious concerns about the health effects of other harmful substances in vaping products. There is strong and consistent evidence that young people who vape are 3 times as likely to take up smoking, compared to those who don't.

The Government is proposing stronger regulation and enforcement of all e-cigarettes, including new controls on their importation, contents and packaging.

The Government will work with states and territories to stamp out the growing black market in illegal vaping, including to:

- stop the import of non-prescription vapes
- increase the minimum quality standards for vapes including by restricting flavours, colours, and other ingredients
- require pharmaceutical-like packaging
- reduce the allowed nicotine concentrations and volumes
- ban all single use, disposable vapes.

### Total value of package

**\$737 million**

**\$263.8m**

**Lung cancer screening (over 4 years)**

**\$141.2m**

**Tackling Indigenous smoking (over 4 years)**

**\$29.5m**

**Support smoking and vaping cessation (over 4 years)**

A new public health information campaign will be developed to discourage Australians from taking up smoking and vaping, and encourage more people to quit.

A new National Lung Cancer Screening Program will provide screening to eligible current and former smokers, saving thousands of lives through early diagnosis and treatment.

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**The Budget will address the inequity in cancer outcomes for First Nations people. Funding will build the capacity and capability of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector to support cancer care on the ground and also ensure mainstream cancer services are culturally safe and accessible**

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The highly successful Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program will be extended and widened to reduce vaping among First Nations people, while also maintaining efforts to reduce tobacco smoking.

These measures will help address the significant threat to public health caused by tobacco products and vapes, and maintain Australia's hard-fought success in tobacco control.

The tax on tobacco will be increased, making cigarettes more expensive and less attractive, and all tobacco will be taxed at the same rate.

## Who benefits

**The measures in this Budget will protect more Australians, particularly young people, from the addiction and long-term health implications associated with smoking and vaping.**

The Government is proposing to strengthen controls on the importation of all vaping products. This will involve only allowing entry of products to be supplied for smoking cessation or to treat nicotine addiction through a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved pathway. As part of this package, stronger controls are also proposed for e-cigarette packaging and contents (including flavours).

Existing controls will be strengthened to reduce the significant health risks of vaping, especially for children and young people.

Subject to further consultation with stakeholders, this may include requiring companies to notify the TGA of their products' pre-market compliance, and strengthening minimum TGA quality and safety standards, such as:

- restricting flavourings, colourings and other ingredients
- requiring pharmaceutical-like plain packaging
- reducing the allowed nicotine concentrations and volumes



The Government  
is **investing**  
**\$737 million in**  
**measures to take**  
**action** on smoking  
and vaping

Tax on tobacco will be increased by 5% for 3 years in addition to normal indexation. The tax treatment of loose-leaf tobacco products will also be aligned with the manufactured stick excise rate to ensure these products are taxed equally.

Together, these changes will raise an additional \$3.3 billion over the coming 4 years, helping to support our health system, and the health of current and former smokers and vapers.

The Budget expands specialised programs and health services to support Australians to quit smoking and vaping (\$29.5 million over 4 years).

This will include:

- establishing an online quitting support hub
- redeveloping and modernising the My Quit Buddy app to include vaping
- scaling up state and territory Quitline and other quit services to meet increased demand
- updating clinical guidance to support the health workforce.

A public health information campaign (\$63.4 million over 4 years), with a strong focus on at-risk groups, including young people, will seek to:

- drive and support tobacco and e-cigarette quit attempts
- denormalise smoking and vaping
- increase support in the community for quitting
- reduce the likelihood of people substituting smoking for vaping (and vice versa) instead of quitting.

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**This package will also include funding to strengthen education and training in smoking and nicotine cessation among health practitioners.**

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Thousands of Australians who are current or former smokers will benefit from early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, thanks to the new National Lung Cancer Screening Program (\$263.8 million over 4 years), which is estimated to prevent more than 4,000 deaths from lung cancer.

Eligible Australians aged between 50 and 70 years with a history of cigarette smoking, can have scans every 2 years, including through mobile screening services for some regional areas. First Nations people and the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector will be key partners in the design of these services, while consistent data collection will facilitate follow ups with participants and allow assurance and evaluation of the program.

\$141.2 million over 4 years will expand the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program to reduce vaping among First Nations people, while also maintaining efforts to reduce tobacco smoking.

First Nations communities carry a higher burden, when it comes to rates of smoking and cancer, and this budget seeks to close the gap in life expectancy through a \$238.5 million investment over 4 years to improve cancer outcomes, and provide culturally safe care for First Nations people.

These measures will benefit all Australians, by helping to reduce the burden on the health system and the significant costs to the economy from smoking, estimated at \$136.9 billion.

## Funding details

- Smoking and vaping cessation activities – \$29.5 million over 4 years
- Public health information campaign on vaping and tobacco control – \$63.4 million over 4 years
- Tackling Indigenous Smoking program extension to vaping – \$141.2 million over 4 years
- A National Lung Cancer Screening Program, providing screening to eligible current and former smokers – \$263.8 million over 4 years.
- Building the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to support cancer care – \$238.5 million over 4 years

The measures in  
this Budget will  
**protect more  
Australians,  
particularly  
young people**

All information in this publication is correct as at May 2023

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