



Changes to vaping in Australia from 1 October 2024

Information for parents, carers and those who support people under 18 years who vape

The laws on vaping in Australia have changed to protect our community, and particularly our young people, from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence.

Main points:

- Vapes and vaping products, regardless of whether they contain nicotine or not, can only be sold in pharmacies. Non-pharmacy retailers that sell any type of vape are doing so illegally.
- People under 18 years need a prescription to purchase vapes, where state and territory laws allow, to ensure they get appropriate medical advice and supervision.
- There are lots of tools and support to help young Australians quit vaping for good.

Vapes can only be sold in pharmacies

All vapes and vaping products must be sold in a pharmacy for the purpose of helping people to quit smoking or manage nicotine dependence. Single use disposable vapes cannot be purchased in a pharmacy.

It is illegal for any other retailer—including tobacconists, vape shops and convenience stores—to sell any type of vape or vaping product.

Purchasing nicotine vapes with a prescription

People under 18 years need a prescription from a medical or nurse practitioner to purchase vapes, where state and territory laws allow, to ensure they get appropriate medical advice and supervision.

This gives them an opportunity to discuss their vaping with a health professional and get the best information about health harms and quitting options.

Please check the laws in your state or territory about the prescription and supply of vapes and vaping goods to people under the age of 18 years.

People who need vapes with a concentration of nicotine higher than 20 mg/mL will require a prescription, regardless of their age.

Purchasing nicotine vapes without a prescription

Subject to state and territory legislation, from 1 October 2024, people 18 years and over can buy vapes with a nicotine concentration of 20 mg/mL or less from participating pharmacies without a prescription, but they must talk with the pharmacist before purchasing.

They will need to discuss the product and dosage, other options to quit smoking and/or manage nicotine dependence, provide identification (for proof of age purposes only), and can only purchase one month's supply over the course of one month.

Other changes to vapes

Flavours are restricted to mint, menthol and tobacco, and vapes will have plain pharmaceutical packaging.

All vapes sold in pharmacies are required to meet certain standards and must be notified to the Therapeutic Goods Administration as meeting those standards. However, they are still not a 'first line' treatment to quit smoking as there is limited evidence about their effectiveness and safety.

Penalties under the legislation

Changes to the vaping laws in Australia are focused on protecting people from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence.

The law targets commercial and criminal supply of vapes. Individuals, including people under 18 years, who have a small amount of vapes/vaping products for personal use will not be targeted under changes to the law.

Help for young people to quit vaping

There are tools and support to help young people quit vaping:

- Call Quitline on 13 7848
- Download the [My QuitBuddy app](#) (age restrictions may apply; check your app store for details)
- Visit quit.org.au

If a young person is wondering whether vapes can help them quit smoking, the first step is to speak with a doctor. There are many products available that are known to be safe and effective.

Resources for parents, carers and those who support young people

Information, including conversation guides and FAQs, are available to support conversations with young people about vaping.

[Conversation guides](#)

[Fact sheets and FAQs](#)

More information

Find out more about changes to vaping in Australia on the Therapeutic Goods Administration [Vaping Hub](#).

Cannabis vapes are subject to separate strict regulations. More information is available on the Therapeutic Goods Administration [medicinal cannabis hub](#).