

E-cigarette reforms

From 1 July 2019, changes to the *Tobacco Control Act* come into effect that will change the way e-cigarettes and vaping products can be promoted, sold and used in the Northern Territory. Like similar regulations in other states, the reforms are designed to protect children and young people from accessing and using e-cigarettes.

Changes to the law

Laws are changing to regulate the sale, supply, promotion and use of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories. The products will be treated the same as conventional cigarettes with the same laws to apply to e-cigarettes as if they were a tobacco product.

The changes do not cause any change to the price or taxes applicable to e-cigarettes. Adults 18 years and over are still able to purchase e-cigarette products from their preferred retailer.

E-cigarettes

E-cigarettes are devices that vaporise a liquid that is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking.

The liquid ingredients vary, however contain chemicals, including solvents and flavouring agents, and may or may not contain nicotine.

It is acknowledged that people report improved health by using e-cigarette products instead of tobacco and that e-cigarette products have assisted them to quit smoking conventional cigarette products. However there is no clear evidence to support e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation therapy.

The Australian medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration does not support the use of e-cigarettes and has not approved any e-cigarette product as a therapeutic good.

Tobacco users wanting to quit should speak to their doctor or a pharmacist about the effective options available or call the Quitline on 13 78 48.

Purchasing e-cigarettes

Adults can purchase e-cigarette products that do not contain nicotine.

It is illegal to sell an e-cigarette product to a person under 18 years of age. E-cigarettes cannot be sold by a person under the age of 18.

There will be display restrictions that retailers must follow, similar to tobacco, however, retailers will be able to show products to adult customers.

Places e-cigarettes cannot be used

E-cigarettes cannot be used in smoke-free areas under the *Tobacco Control Act* including:

- enclosed workplaces
- outdoor dining areas
- within 10 metres of outdoor children's playground equipment, skate parks and other community facilities and community events
- within 10 metres of entrances to childcare centres, preschools and schools
- any other area where tobacco products are not to be used.

Reason for the regulations

E-cigarettes are a relatively new product, and much remains unknown about the potential harms they may cause. E-cigarettes are a concern because of:

- variability in the amount and type of chemicals e-cigarettes deliver
- marketing with implied benefits that are based on inaccurate or misleading information
- glamorous packaging and advertising aimed at young people
- potential to normalise smoking-like behaviour and undermine support to quit smoking.