



The Thoracic Society
of Australia & New Zealand
LEADERS IN LUNG HEALTH

The Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand Update

2 May 2023

Media Release: Minister Butler's e-cigarette reforms will protect generations of Australians from nicotine addiction.

Following news that the Australian government will progress a suite of e-cigarette reforms, the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) congratulates Minister Butler on this landmark win for Australian lung health.

TSANZ CEO Vincent So congratulated the government on its rapid policy plan to protect the lung health of all Australians. Mr So said "for nine years the Coalition was unable to enact sensible health policy regarding e-cigarettes because the Nationals are the only major party to still accept donations from big tobacco. Whereas, the Albanese Government has banned recreational e-cigarettes in less than one year of Government."

The evidence shows that we're moving in the right direction. "Banning non-prescription e-cigarette imports – including those without nicotine, implementing basic quality control measures and plain packaging requirements, restricting nicotine concentrations, flavour options, and banning all single-use disposable e-cigarettes, these measures are all critical if we want to get on top of nicotine addiction in this country," explains TSANZ President Professor Anne Holland.

The TSANZ has and will continue to offer evidence-based and clinically informed guidance to the Minister and the health department to implement these world-leading reforms. As a membership organisation for respiratory clinicians, multi-disciplinary professionals, and researchers across Australia and New Zealand, we have world-renowned expertise on hand to inform the details of the prescription model. "Now that the hard decisions have been made, it's time to get on with the work to protect the lung health of Australians" Professor Holland says. "These changes will help protect Australian's lungs for decades to come, steer young generations away from nicotine addiction, and free up the health system from the greatest burden of preventable disease in Australia."

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