

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Dr Anne Aly MP
Member for Cowan
PO Box 219
Kingsway WA 6065

Dear Dr Aly

E-CIGARETTES A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK

The AMA (WA) is concerned with mounting pressure from vaping advocates and the tobacco industry to weaken Australian tobacco control measures by overturning restrictions on e-cigarettes.

It is crucial to recognise the importance of Australia's statutory health authorities and of rigorous, independent research in evaluating the evidence on novel products like e-cigarettes, which could pose a serious risk to public health.

The vast majority of Australian government and non-government health organisations have taken a joint precautionary position on electronic cigarettes.

Since 2011, the NHMRC has invested \$8.3 million in nine studies to investigate the risks and benefits of e-cigarettes. In 2017 it released its summary findings: there was insufficient evidence to conclude that electronic cigarettes assisted smokers to quit, but there was evidence that electronic cigarette use in non-smokers was associated with future take-up of smoking.

Following an extensive review in 2017, the TGA found no case for declassifying liquid nicotine as a poison to support its use in electronic cigarettes. In June this year, the CSIRO published a comprehensive, independent literature review which also supports the precautionary position. It found that evidence is consistent in suggesting electronic cigarette use by non-smoking youth predicts future smoking but was unable to determine whether electronic cigarette use would reduce population smoking rates overall.

In the context of well-established evidence of the harm caused by tobacco, and the resulting declines in smoking rates, it is not surprising that the tobacco industry would recognise the potential in products that either maintain or establish a nicotine addiction. The latest incarnation of heated tobacco products is reminiscent of past efforts to use similar products to undermine tobacco control, particularly efforts that present the tobacco industry as a partner in harm reduction.

The covert techniques of tobacco companies to influence public policy, such as lobbying and funding Australian political parties, often via third party organisations, must be exposed and regulated.

As well as harmful nicotine exposure from e-cigarettes directly, there is evidence of a gateway effect for young people to tobacco smoking. In September the head of the US Food and Drug Administration, Dr Scott Gottlieb, issued a public warning about an "epidemic" of youth e-cigarette use that threatens to create a new generation of nicotine addicts. It would be a tragedy if Australia faced a similar threat, given our great achievements in reducing youth tobacco use to an all-time low of below 2% in 12 to 17-year-olds.

Any ongoing reviews of e-cigarettes must be done through independent, rigorous processes, without risk of political interference. Australia's adherence to independence and rigour in the evaluation of health interventions is one of the reasons our smoking rates are low and our tobacco control is the envy of the rest of the world.

The AMA (WA) commends both the State and Federal Ministers for Health, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA and the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, for their support of statutory agencies in their portfolios on e-cigarettes and the need for precaution in light of current evidence.

Thank you for your contributions as political leaders to Australia's positive health outcomes.

Yours sincerely



DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Ms Julie Bishop MP
Member for Curtin
PO Box 2010
Subiaco WA 6904

Dear Ms Bishop

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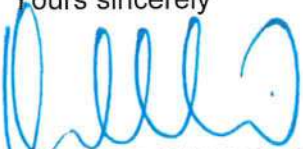
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Ian Goodenough MP
Member for Moore
3 Boas Avenue
Joondalup WA 6027

Dear Mr Goodenough

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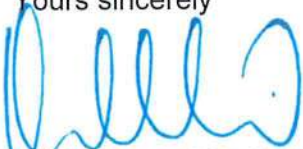
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Patrick Gorman MP
Member for Perth
PO Box 901
Inglewood WA 6932

Dear Mr Gorman

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Andrew Hastie MP
Member for Canning
PO Box 968
Mandurah WA 6210

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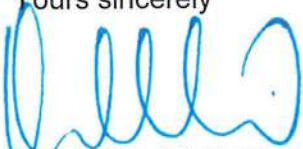
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Mr Stephen Irons MP
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister
PO Box 1060
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Dear Assistant Minister

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Mr Michael Keenan MP
Minister for Human Services and Digital Transformation
PO Box 989
Innaloo WA 6918

Dear Minister

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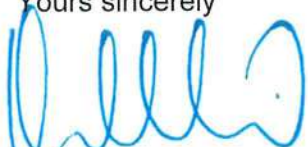
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Matt Keogh MP
Member for Burt
PO Box 465
Kelmscott WA 6991

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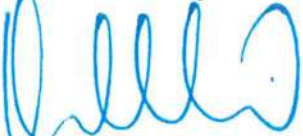
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Ms Madeleine King MP
Member for Brand
PO Box 5062
Rockingham Beach WA 6969

Dear Ms King

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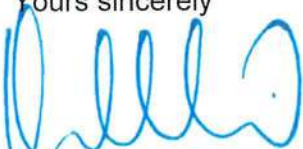
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mrs Nola Marino MP
Chief Government Whip
PO Box 2028
Bunbury WA 6231

Dear Mrs Marino

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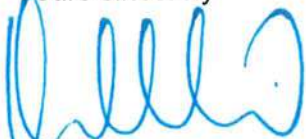
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Member for Tangney
PO Box 329
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It is crucial to recognise the importance of Australia's statutory health authorities and of rigorous, independent research in evaluating the evidence on novel products like e-cigarettes, which could pose a serious risk to public health.

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Following an extensive review in 2017, the TGA found no case for declassifying liquid nicotine as a poison to support its use in electronic cigarettes. In June this year, the CSIRO published a comprehensive, independent literature review which also supports the precautionary position. It found that evidence is consistent in suggesting electronic cigarette use by non-smoking youth predicts future smoking but was unable to determine whether electronic cigarette use would reduce population smoking rates overall.

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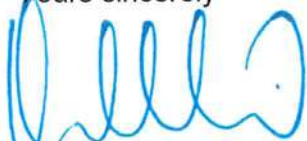
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The AMA (WA) commends both the State and Federal Ministers for Health, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA and the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, for their support of statutory agencies in their portfolios on e-cigarettes and the need for precaution in light of current evidence.

Thank you for your contributions as political leaders to Australia's positive health outcomes.

Yours sincerely



DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Mr Christian Porter MP
Attorney-General
PO Box 2226
Ellenbrook WA 6069

Dear Mr Porter

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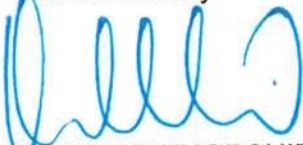
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Melissa Price MP
Minister for the Environment
2B/209 Foreshore Drive
Geraldton WA 6530

Dear Minister

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PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Josh Wilson MP
Member for Fremantle
PO Box 1224
Fremantle WA 6959

Dear Mr Wilson

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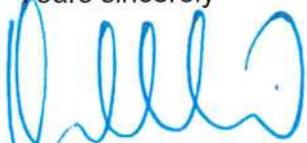
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PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Mr Rick Wilson MP
Member for O'Connor
PO Box 10415
Kalgoorlie WA 6430

Dear Mr Wilson

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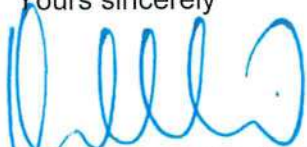
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Yours sincerely



DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care;
Minister for Indigenous Health
PO Box 325
Forrestfield WA 6058

Dear Minister

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Yours sincerely

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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Slade Brockman
Level 40, Exchange Tower
2 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6000

Dear Senator

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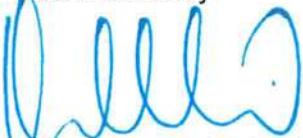
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Small and Family Business;
Skills and Vocational Education
PO Box 1966
West Perth WA 6872

Dear Senator

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DR OMAR KHORSHID
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AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance and the Public Service;
Leader of the Government in the Senate
GPO Box B58
Perth WA 6838

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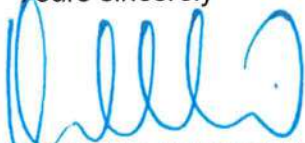
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Yours sincerely

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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Patrick Dodson
PO Box 3490
Broome WA 6725

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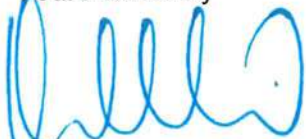
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Peter Georgiou
PO Box 6
West Perth WA 6872

Dear Senator

E-CIGARETTES A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK

The AMA (WA) is concerned with mounting pressure from vaping advocates and the tobacco industry to weaken Australian tobacco control measures by overturning restrictions on e-cigarettes.

It is crucial to recognise the importance of Australia's statutory health authorities and of rigorous, independent research in evaluating the evidence on novel products like e-cigarettes, which could pose a serious risk to public health.

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The AMA (WA) commends both the State and Federal Ministers for Health, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA and the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, for their support of statutory agencies in their portfolios on e-cigarettes and the need for precaution in light of current evidence.

Thank you for your contributions as political leaders to Australia’s positive health outcomes.

Yours sincerely



DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Sue Lines
Deputy President; Chair of Committees
PO Box 1322
West Perth WA 6872

Dear Senator

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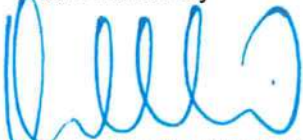
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Louise Pratt
PO Box 531
Belmont WA 6984

Dear Senator

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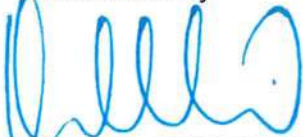
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC
Assistant Minister for Home Affairs
PO Box 369
Belmont WA 6984

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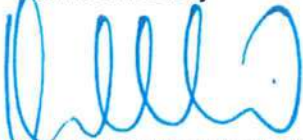
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AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Rachel Siewert
Australian Greens Whip
Unit 11, Level 2
440 William Street
Perth WA 6000

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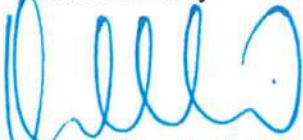
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a final flourish, positioned above the printed name.

DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Dean Smith
Deputy Government Whip in the Senate
PO Box 930
West Perth WA 6872

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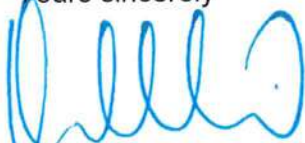
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DR OMAR KHORSHID
PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Jordon Steele-John
Level 27 Exchange Tower
2 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6838

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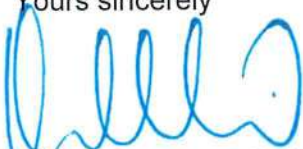
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AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Senator Glenn Sterle
Mailpoint 22
Market City
280 Bannister Road
Canning Vale WA 6155

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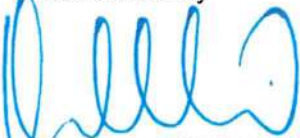
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

3 October 2018

Hon Mr Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
PO Box 647
Somerville VIC 3912

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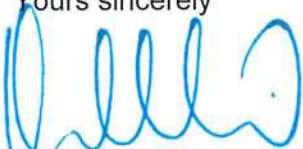
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