



MEDIA RELEASE

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TCCI and TSBC join forces to call for a statewide nicotine vaping and e-cigarette trial in Tasmania.

With the second highest smoking rate in the country of 17.6 per cent, local business groups have come together on behalf the retailer sector to call for a statewide nicotine vaping and e-cigarette trial in Tasmania.

Tasmanian Small Business Council CEO, Robert Mallett said the last 5 Year Health Tasmania plan set the ambitious target of reducing smoking to 10 per cent by 2020 and then 5 per cent by 2025, but this had be jettisoned with little, if any changes in smoking rates for the state.

“We need to rethink our approach to smoking reduction and there is considerable evidence internationally that nicotine vaping and e-cigarettes are not only significantly less harmful than traditional cigarettes, but that they are also very effective smoking cessation aids.

“For example, a report by the US National Library of Medicine shows that the accelerated decline in cigarette only sales in Japan since 2016 corresponds with the introduction and growth in the sales of heated tobacco products (HTP).

“The report shows that during the period 2011 to 2015 the annual percentage decline of cigarette sales was 3.10, but with the introduction of HTP sales in 2016 the annual percent of change in cigarette sales move to 16.38, a five-fold increase in the decline of cigarette sales,” Mr Mallett said.

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO, Michael Bailey said the TCCI remain strongly of the view that nicotine vaping and e-

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cigarette products should be made widely available in the same way they are worldwide, including in places like the United Kingdom, European Union, and our near neighbours New Zealand.

Under such a real-world trial, selected traditional cigarette retailers would be able to also stock appropriately regulated nicotine vaping and nicotine e-cigarettes for “over the counter” sales to adults, as a less harmful and less expensive alternative to traditional cigarettes. Mr Bailey said good places to consider for a focus of such a trial could include the Bridgewater-Gagebrook area which has the highest smoking rate in the country, with a shocking 40 per cent of adults smoking on a regular basis.

“Another focus is Risdon Vale, which is second-worst in the country, where the smoking rate is over 34 per cent,” Mr Bailey said.

“In our view, it remains absurd that the less harmful, smoking cessation aids aren’t available on the corner-store shelf next to cigarettes.”

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