

## **National Vaping Working Group**

### **Inaugural Meeting – 30 January 2024**

#### **Communiqué**

The National Vaping Working Group (NVWG) held its inaugural meeting in Canberra on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

The NVWG was established by the joint meeting of Health and Police Ministers on 23 November 2023 and announced by the Minister for Health and Aged Care. It will oversee the development and implementation of a National Vaping Enforcement Framework to stamp out unlawful vapes in the community.

The NVWG is Co-chaired by Michael Outram APM, Commissioner, Australian Border Force (ABF) and Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health and comprises senior officials from all state and territory health departments and police forces, the ABF, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the Australian Federal Police.

The work of the NVWG to implement and oversee the National Vaping Enforcement Framework will support the progressive implementation of the Australian Government's vaping reforms across 2024. These reforms come into effect in stages:

- From 1 January 2024:
  - importation of disposable vapes is prohibited
- From 1 March 2024:
  - importation of all non-therapeutic vapes is also prohibited. Product compliance notification requirements must be met. Importation of therapeutic vapes will require an import licence and permit. Updated quality and safety standards apply, including new restrictions on flavours
- Expected mid-2024:
  - the Government will introduce a Bill into Parliament to impose a domestic ban on the manufacture, advertising, supply and commercial possession of disposable and non-therapeutic vapes
- Late 2024:
  - quality and safety product standards for therapeutic vapes will be strengthened, including in relation to plain packaging, pharmaceutical labelling, permissible ingredients, and maximum nicotine concentrations.

Topics discussed during the inaugural meeting included:

- the governance and operations of the NVWG
- the National Vaping Enforcement Framework supporting a cooperative system approach to compliance and enforcement, with well-defined roles of respective agencies, the operating environment, the importance of intelligence sharing, the role of communications and education, and reporting
- progress of the Commonwealth regulatory reforms to vaping products which are being implemented in stages across 2024
- customs import control activities since 1 January 2024
- state regulatory and enforcement experience.

The next meeting of the NVWG will be held in Sydney on 28 February 2024.