

National Vaping Working Group

Meeting 2 – 28 February 2024

Communiqué

The National Vaping Working Group (NVWG) held its second meeting in Sydney on Thursday, 28 February 2024.

The NVWG was established by the joint meeting of Health and Police Ministers on 23 November 2023 to 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, New South Wales Ministry of Health. Participants included senior officials from all state and territory health departments and police forces, the ABF, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and the Australian Federal Police.

Topics discussed during the second meeting included:

- the terms of reference of the NVWG, including how the impact of emerging illegal nicotine products targeted at young people, including pouches, should be considered by the Working Group
- the continued development of the National Vaping Enforcement Framework including:
 - clarifying roles and responsibilities between health departments and enforcement agencies in relation to the enforcement of vaping regulations
 - the importance of partner agencies in supporting enforcement actions
 - framework governance
 - outcome measurement and reporting
 - authorisation of powers under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.
- the safe and sustainable transport, storage, handling and disposal of vaping goods. A further discussion will be held, following consultation with relevant Commonwealth and state agencies on options for a national approach for efficient and effective transport, storage and disposal of vaping products.
- recent joint operations between the Commonwealth agencies, including the ABF and TGA, and state health and enforcement agencies in seizing vaping goods.
- emerging issues, including the seizure of other illegal products containing nicotine alongside vapes and new delivery approaches by distributors.
- an update on activities at the border since the previous NVWG meeting.

The next meeting of the NVWG will be held in Canberra on 26 March 2024.