



Changes to vaping in Australia from 1 July 2024

Information for parents, carers and those who support young people who vape

The laws on vaping (use of e-cigarettes) in Australia changed on 1 July 2024 to protect our community, and particularly our young people, from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence.

Main points:

- From 1 July 2024, all vapes must be sold by a pharmacy. Non-pharmacy retailers that sell any type of vape are doing so illegally.
- To purchase vapes containing nicotine, everyone will need a prescription until 30 September 2024. People under 18 years will still need a prescription past this date.
- People 18 years or older don't need a prescription from 1 October 2024, but must talk with the pharmacist before purchasing.
- There are lots of tools and support to help young Australians quit vaping for good.

Vapes can only be sold at pharmacies

From 1 July 2024, all vapes, regardless of whether they contain nicotine or not, must be sold in a pharmacy for the purpose of helping people to quit smoking or manage nicotine dependence.

It is illegal for any other retailer—including tobacconists, vape shops and convenience stores—to sell any type of vape or vaping product.

Purchasing nicotine vapes with a prescription

Until 30 September 2024, everyone will need a prescription from a doctor or nurse practitioner to buy vapes that contain nicotine.

This gives everyone an opportunity to discuss their vaping with a health professional and get the best information about health harms and quitting options.

Buying nicotine vapes without a prescription

From 1 October 2024, people 18 years or over can buy nicotine vapes from pharmacies without a prescription.

To do this, people will need to have a discussion with a pharmacist, including about the dosage and other options to quit smoking and/or manage nicotine dependence. They will need to provide identification (ID) before they purchase and will only be allowed to purchase one month's supply at a time.

People under 18 years will still need a prescription to access vapes, where state and territory laws allow it, to ensure they get appropriate medical advice and supervision.

Nicotine and zero-nicotine vapes. Pharmacies can sell both nicotine and zero-nicotine vapes. Until 30 September 2024, you still need to talk to your doctor or nurse practitioner before you can buy a zero-nicotine vape from the pharmacy.

Other changes to make vapes safer

The concentration of nicotine in vapes sold in pharmacies without a prescription will be limited to 20 mg/mL. People who require vapes with a higher concentration of nicotine will need a prescription.

Flavours will be limited to mint, menthol and tobacco, and vapes will have plain pharmaceutical packaging.

All vapes sold in pharmacies have met certain standards, as notified to the Therapeutic Goods Administration. However, they are still not a 'first line' treatment to quit smoking as there is limited evidence about their effectiveness and safety.

Penalties under the legislation

Changes to the vaping laws in Australia are focused on protecting people from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence.

The law targets commercial and criminal supply of vapes. Individuals, including people under 18 years, who have a vape on them for personal use will not be targeted under changes to the law.

Help for young people to quit vaping

There are tools and support to help young people quit vaping:

- Download the [My QuitBuddy app](#) (13+ for Android, 17+ for Apple iOS)
- Visit quit.org.au
- Call Quitline on 13 7848

If a young person is wondering whether vapes can help them quit smoking, the first step is to speak with a doctor. There are many products available that are known to be safe and effective.

Resources for parents, carers and those who support young people

Information, including conversation guides and FAQs, are available to support conversations with young people about vaping.

[Conversation guides](#)

[Fact sheets and FAQs](#)

More information

Find out more about changes to vaping in Australia on the Therapeutic Goods Administration [Vaping Hub](#).