



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Suite M1-41
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

cc: The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister
The Hon Jason Wood MP, Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety
& Multicultural Affairs

Dear Minister,

We write in regards to changes to the Customs (Prohibited Import) Regulations announced on 19 June 2020 that would, in effect, end the importation of vaping liquids for use in e-cigarettes via the existing Personal Importation Scheme from 1 July 2020.

We have been contacted by many constituents concerned about these changes. They are concerned that the new regulations would deny them access to vaping products that have helped them give up tobacco smoking.

George Christensen and Matt Canavan established a petition against these changes and that has been signed by more than 52,000 people in 24 hours. We have never seen a public reaction like it.

We believe that this reaction shows how many people have relied on vaping products to kick a long term habit of smoking. Many are concerned that last week's changes impose such onerous regulatory requirements that they would in effect be banned from buying vaping liquids. They would then possibly revert back to the more unhealthy habit of smoking.

We understand that was not the intention of last week's changes. However, our understanding of these changes means that doctors and suppliers must register before distributing vaping products. Moving to an entirely new regulatory framework within two weeks seems completely impractical. In effect, we fear that many will simply not have access to a product they have relied on, under the previous Personal Importation Scheme.

With that in mind we respectfully ask that the government rescind the regulation establishing the new regulatory framework and allow the existing scheme to continue at least until the end of this year, while further consultation can occur on the proposed changes. We understand that you have a different view on the relative risks of establishing a regulated vaping market in Australia. We respect your views.

Regardless of our differences of opinion on that issue, we feel that this proposed regulatory change has been too rushed and risks a widespread community backlash and perverse health outcomes.

Such a delay in any changes, would also give us time to have a proper discussion with all concerned members of the Liberal and Nationals party rooms about these proposed changes, and the future regulatory framework for e-cigarettes in Australia.

We thank you for considering our proposal and look forward to further discussions on this important issue.

Kind regards,



MATTHEW CANAVAN
Senator for Queensland



ALEX ANTIC
Senator for South Australia



GEORGE CHRISTENSEN MP
Member for Dawson



CLAIRE CHANDLER
Senator for Tasmania



ERIC ABETZ
Senator for Tasmania



PAT CONAGHAN MP
Member for Cowper

PERIN DAVEY
Senator for New South Wales

Dr ANDREW LAMING MP
Member for Bowman

DAMIAN DRUM MP
Member for Nicholls

SUSAN McDONALD
Senator for Queensland

JASON FALINSKI MP
Member for Mackellar

JAMES McGRATH
Senator for Queensland

BRIDGET McKENZIE
Senator for Victoria

HOLLIE HUGHES
Senator for New South Wales

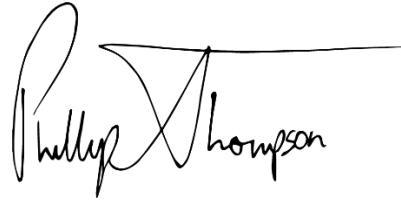
Dr SAM McMAHON
Senator for the Northern Territory

BARNABY JOYCE MP
Member for New England

LLEW O'BRIEN MP
Member for Wide Bay



KEN O'DOWD MP
Member for Flynn



PHILLIP THOMPSON
Member for Herbert



JAMES PATERSON
Senator for Victoria



DAVID VAN
Senator for Victoria



GERARD RENNICK
Senator for Queensland



Dr ANNE WEBSTER MP
Member for Mallee



PAUL SCARR
Senator for Queensland



TIM WILSON MP
Member for Goldstein



DAVE SHARMA MP
Member for Wentworth



TRENT ZIMMERMAN MP
Member for North Sydney



AMANDA STOKER
Senator for Queensland