

# Community Voice - Vaping Insights



## THE COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Western Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our sites stand, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung, Boon Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the greater Kulin Nation. We pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are committed to the healing of country, working towards equity in health outcomes, and the ongoing journey of reconciliation. Western Health is committed to respectfully listening and learning from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and wholeheartedly supports their journey to self-determination.



Acknowledgement of Country



# Introduction

- We wanted to better understand how vaping is impacting the communities we work with:
  - In response to concerns raised by the community
  - To capture the experience of people from diverse cultural backgrounds (44.8% speak a language other than English at home)
- We used existing trusted community networks, meetings and information sessions to collect insights, perceptions, impact and concerns around vaping.



# Community engagement activities

We reached over 200 community members, through:

- Vaping awareness day in partnership with cohealth for Arabic parents and youth.
- Information sessions with youth, community groups and sport events with Arabic, African, Indian and Punjabi communities.
- Wyndham youth network presentation – strengthening capacity of workers to share information with their clients.



# What we heard

***“Resources only In English”***

***“My child got disconnected and experienced bullying from his friends because... he was refusing the idea“***

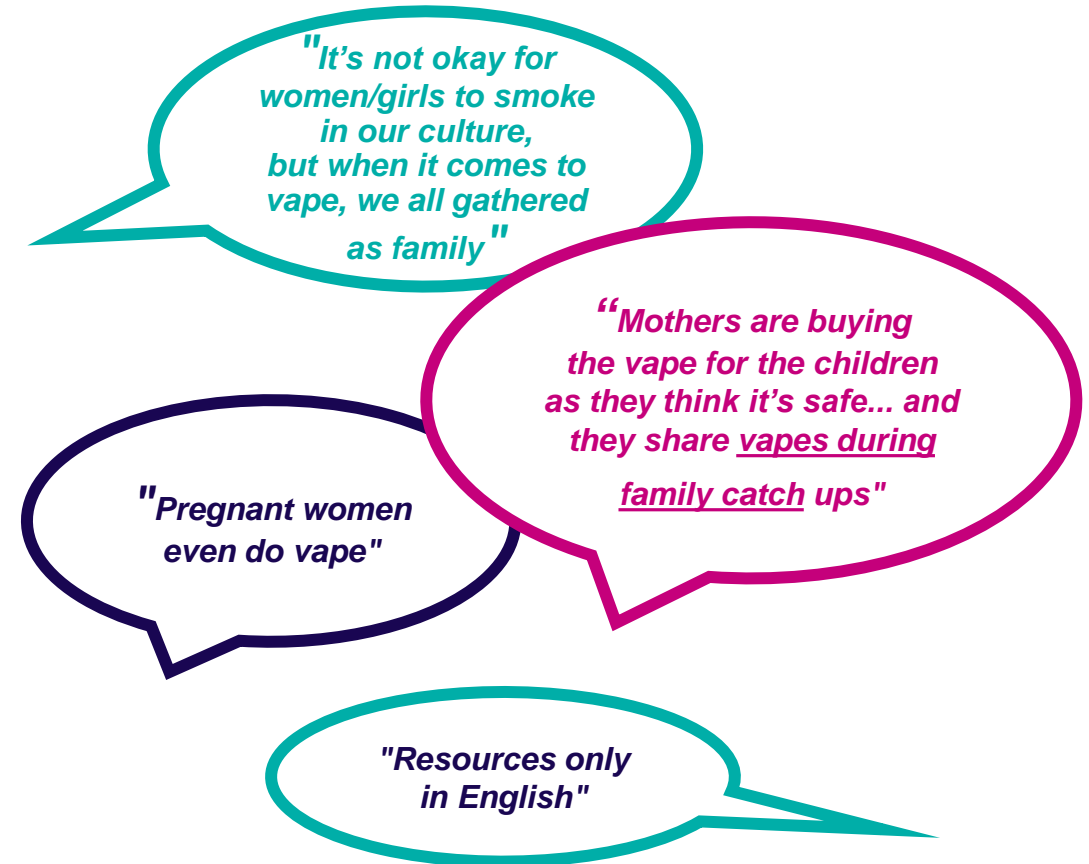
***“My children are in primary school, and they told me that some children are vaping”***

***“Mothers are buying the vape for the children as they think it’s safe... and they share vapes during family catch ups”***

***“It’s not okay for women/girls to smoke in our culture, but when it comes to vape, we all gathered as family”***

***“Pregnant women even do vape, or negative-vapers”***

***“Vaping is so connected to mental health and the Covid pandemic /lockdown impacts”***



# Importance of community voice/hidden voice to inform action and advocacy

- Share valuable insights with our partners to develop a shared understanding of the issue
- ABC radio interview to share community insights about vaping.
- Advocate and plan for collective action with our partners
- Design tailored activities and messaging to engage priority communities.
- Add community voice to Victorian Government Inquiry into vaping and tobacco controls submission



## Western Public Health Unit finds vape stores surround suburban schools in Melbourne's west

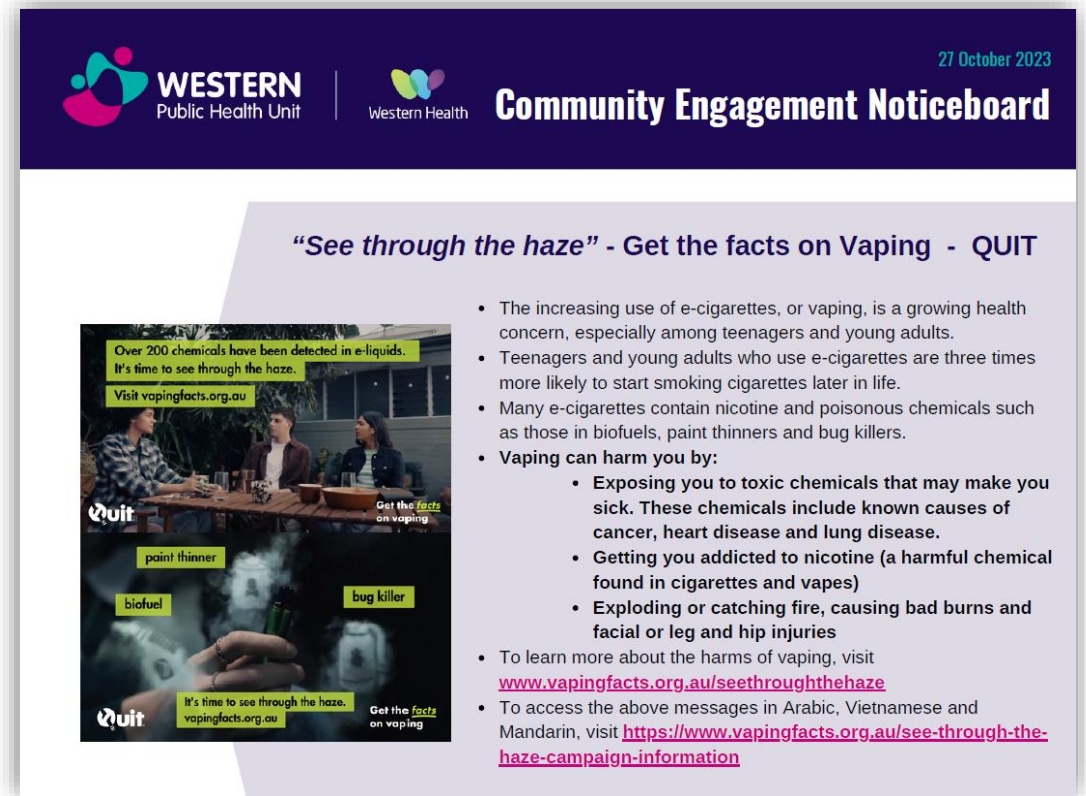
ABC Radio Melbourne / By Rosa Ritchie and Rafael Epstein  
Posted Fri 1 Dec 2023 at 12:05am





A public health unit in Melbourne's west says dozens of vape shops are close to schools. (Pexels: Ruslan Alekso/CC licence)

# Next steps


- Working in partnership with Quit to recruit young people to develop video resources to share quit vaping experiences.
- Scoping expanded "*Community Voice*" project to increase diversity, particularly young people.
  - Connection with WHY advisory group
  - Invitation to get involved... can you help uncover hidden voices in your community?



27 October 2023

 **WESTERN**  
Public Health Unit |  Western Health **Community Engagement Noticeboard**

**"See through the haze" - Get the facts on Vaping - QUIT**



- The increasing use of e-cigarettes, or vaping, is a growing health concern, especially among teenagers and young adults.
- Teenagers and young adults who use e-cigarettes are three times more likely to start smoking cigarettes later in life.
- Many e-cigarettes contain nicotine and poisonous chemicals such as those in biofuels, paint thinners and bug killers.
- Vaping can harm you by:
  - Exposing you to toxic chemicals that may make you sick. These chemicals include known causes of cancer, heart disease and lung disease.
  - Getting you addicted to nicotine (a harmful chemical found in cigarettes and vapes)
  - Exploding or catching fire, causing bad burns and facial or leg and hip injuries
- To learn more about the harms of vaping, visit [www.vapingfacts.org.au/seethroughthehaze](https://www.vapingfacts.org.au/seethroughthehaze)
- To access the above messages in Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin, visit <https://www.vapingfacts.org.au/see-through-the-haze-campaign-information>

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### Opening Hours

8am – 4.30pm, 7 days a week

