



Dear Wyndham CEC Community

As Wyndham CEC's Child Safety Officer my role is to provide advice and raise awareness on child safety. This edition of our Child Safety and Wellbeing Newsletter reflects:

- Child Safe Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- Vaping—what is vaping and the risks of vaping

The Senior Secondary Program (formerly VCAL program) has now become an Independent School. What a fantastic outcome and a lot of hard work for senior management and the school staff.

Werribee Community College will continue with the great work they do especially with Child Safety .

This newsletter will focus on some of the Child Safe training they do on a regular basis. The training is available to anyone who is interested in furthering their knowledge on Child safety.



Werribee Community College teacher Yolanda Berecz (left) and Assistant Principal Teresa Vizintin (second from right) with students Connor and Dalia. (Jacob Pattison)392916_02

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

Wyndham CEC wants children to be safe, happy and empowered and supports and respects children attending the Centre, as well as staff and volunteers.

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."

-- Emma Goldman

Wyndham CEC's Statement of Commitment

Wyndham CEC is committed to Child Safety
has no tolerance of child abuse
and actively works to protect and empower children

Werribee Community College

Independent school staff

Online learning for schools

Obligations:

Mandated reporters in non-government schools are strongly encouraged to complete mandatory reporting training once per calendar year. Other staff are also encouraged to undertake the module annually.—Our staff complete this training annually.

Raising Children Network (supported by the Australian Government- Department of Social Services.)

The Australian Parenting Website

raisingchildren.net.au provides ad-free parenting videos, articles and apps backed by Australian experts.

https://raisingchildren.net.au/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMli7-X297vhAMVN6dmAh2blwZ0EAAYASAAEgIgtvD_BwE

PROTECT

Protecting children & young people
from abuse is our responsibility



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Child Safe information for schools

<https://www.schools.vic.gov.au/child-protection-and-child-safe-standards-protect>

Identify child abuse

As a school staff member, it is critical to be able to recognise the physical or behavioural signs of child abuse.

Your reporting and legal obligations

Information on your reporting and legal obligations for suspected child abuse within or outside of school grounds.

Report child abuse in schools

Information on the Four Critical Actions you must take, and guidance for schools to meet their obligations.

Identify and respond to student sexual offending

Guidance for all Victorian school staff on what action to take if you suspect, or are witness to student sexual offending.

Child sexual exploitation and grooming

Guidance for school staff on how to spot the signs of sexual exploitation and how to respond.

Child protection privacy and information sharing

As a school staff member you are permitted to share certain information about a child who has been impacted by abuse. This page provides guidance on the specific information sharing requirements.

Responding to other concerns about the wellbeing of a child

This section will support you to determine how to respond to concerns about the wellbeing of a child which do not appear to be the result of child abuse.

Online learning for schools

Information about 'Protecting Children' e-learning modules to assist staff in both government and non-government schools to understand their mandatory reporting and other legal obligations.

The Child Safe Standards - Early childhood services

Advice for implementing the Child Safe Standards in early childhood services.

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Parents Information Page

Wyndham CEC has a strong commitment to Child Safety in the Senior Secondary-Program as can be seen by the following:

- Wyndham CEC has a designated Child Safety Officer—Lesley Nallawalla.
- If you have any questions she can be contacted on :0409 218 071 or at 20 Synnot St, Head Office



Support Services

- **CHILD FIRST** <https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/referral-and-support-teams>
- **ORANGE DOOR** <https://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/the-orange-door.html>
- **SUN SMART** <https://www.sunsmart.com.au>

24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

- **Kids Helpline (5 to 25 year olds)- 1800 55 1800**
- **Beyond Blue- 1300 22 4636**
- **Lifeline - 13 11 14**
- **1800 Respect - 1800 737 732**
- **MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978**
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- If you have been scammed online, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.
- If you have been a victim of cybercrime, call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1300 292 371 or visit www.cyber.gov.au.

The eSafety Commissioner website also has information to help parents with their children/young people if they are having any concerns or problems with social media or online activity. [CCYP | Resources](#)

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Vaping - What is vaping?

Vaping is a term used to describe the act of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol produced by an electronic device. These devices are also known as e-cigarettes, e-cigs, or vape pens, and are becoming increasingly popular among teenagers and young adults. Vaping devices are typically battery-powered and work by heating a liquid, called e-juice or vape juice, that typically contains nicotine, flavourings, and other chemicals. The liquid is transformed into an aerosol that is inhaled, providing a sensation similar to smoking regular tobacco cigarettes.

Vaping is often marketed as a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes because it doesn't involve burning tobacco. However, there are still many health risks associated with vaping, including respiratory problems and addiction to nicotine. Despite the health risks, there are a variety of reasons some people still choose to vape. The primary reasons cited by young people are social pressures and fitting in, curiosity, and stress relief. This is also due to lack of education and misrepresentation of the health risks involved, so it is important to be aware of the potential dangers associated with vaping in order to make informed decisions.

Vaping is an increasingly concerning issue in high schools around the world. Many students are attracted to the flavours and social aspect of vaping, leading to a rise in its popularity. Recent research found that 10% of young Australians aged 14-17 years old and 26% aged 18-24 have used e-cigarettes. As a result of the rapid increase in vape usage amongst young people, schools and parents are working tirelessly to educate students about the potential dangers of vaping and to discourage use.

Since 2017, the US saw a record increase in adolescents' vaping of nicotine – the largest for any substance over the past 44 years [3]. In Australia, vape usage in people aged 14 years or older has more than doubled from 2016 to 2019 [4], and jumped by 18% between 2017 and 2021 in secondary school students [5]. Now the research has shown that more than 3.5 million Australians aged 14 years and over vape or smoke [6, 7]. According to the [2022/23 Australian Secondary Schools Student Survey](#), around one third of students (30%) had used an e-cigarette at least once in their lifetime. Approximately 5% of students vaped regularly, and among students who had tried vaping, over two thirds (69%) had never smoked a regular cigarette before they first vaped.

Health Minister Mark Butler has called vaping 'the number one behavioural issue in high schools,'[8] and commented on the tobacco industry's 'deliberate strategy [...] to create a pathway into smoking, to create a new generation of nicotine addicts.'[9]. This is in response to the dramatic increase in the smoking rates of teenagers since 2020, which hasn't been seen since the 1990s. Vaping is therefore reversing the progress made against tobacco use, potentially behaving as a gateway into smoking and other substance use.

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Vaping - What are the risks?

- Nicotine is considered one of the most addictive substances. Unregulated vapes contain unknown amounts of nicotine and over half of adolescents who use e-cigarettes develop symptoms of dependence.
- Mouth inflammation, gum disease and oral health problems.
- Throat irritation, cough, dizziness, headache, nausea.
- Nicotine overdose, including seizures and poisoning.
- Burns and injuries.
- Respiratory illness, including risk of lung disease.
- Single use waste and impact on the environment.
- Exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. Some of the more concerning substances include metals such as nickel, chromium, and lead, as well as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, arsenic, VOCs, and an onslaught of flavouring chemicals and particulates – some of which are known carcinogens and found in products such as paint stripper, petrol, weed killer, and rat poison. While some of the components of e-cigarettes have been deemed safe to eat or drink, they have not proven safe for inhalation.
- Risk of developing chronic disease such as lung cancer or cardiovascular disease.
- Potential negative effect on brain function and development
- Potential negative effect on mental health and links with depression and anxiety

What's changing?

1. **Total ban on single use, disposable vapes:** Australia has banned the sale of e-cigarettes and vaping products, both with and without nicotine, within the country.
2. **E-cigarettes will be prescription only** intended to aid in the cessation of smoking. There will be quality standards restricting flavours, colours and other ingredients as well as a restriction on the amount of nicotine prescription vapes can contain.
3. **Public health campaigns** – \$63 million of the budget will be spent on a public health campaign to discourage smoking and vaping.
4. **Pharmaceutical-like health warnings** on vaping product packaging and restricted marketing and advertising to minimise their appeal to young audiences.
5. **Support programs and education and training for health professionals** and encouraging traditional nicotine replacement cessation methods for vapers and smokers.
6. **Border controls:** Strengthened border controls with the aim to prevent the illegal importation of vaping products, with severe penalties for unauthorised imports.
7. **State-enforced raids**
Victoria the confiscation of up to \$800,000 worth of vapes from the streets, and a pledge to continue to discourage the sale of illegal vapes
8. **Research and education Initiatives:** Australia invests in research to understand the long-term health effects of vaping and educate the public about associated risks





OUR Futures

VAPING FACTS

DETRIMENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS

Health consequences can include poisoning, seizures, burns, lung injury, and an impact on brain development in youth (where nicotine e-liquid is used).



NOT HARMLESS "VAPOUR"

Vapes produce an aerosol that can contain 1000s of chemicals, including heavy metals and an onslaught of flavouring chemicals - some of which are known carcinogens and found in products such as paint stripper, petrol, weed killer, and rat poison.

HIGHLY ADDICTIVE

Many vapes contain high amounts of nicotine, which is a highly addictive chemical. It is especially easy for young people to become addicted to nicotine because their brains are still growing and developing.



LINKED TO TOBACCO SMOKING

Some research suggests that young people who use vapes are 3 times more likely to take up tobacco smoking when compared to people who have never vaped.

YOUNG VAPE USER NUMBERS ON THE RISE

Our recent study found 26% of 14-17-year-olds had tried vaping and 6% vaped regularly. The number of young vape users has only continued to rise, becoming a major issue in schools.



See our Vaping Infographic blog post on our website for full list of references:
<https://ourfuturesinstitute.org.au/news/>