

Vape Check: Development of a brief intervention tool for young people who vape

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Background: In the last two years, we have seen a spike in support and assist requests related to managing vaping in young people; we have had calls from schools and other health agencies. This increase in vaping in young people is reflected in statistics found in Australia.¹ Workers were reporting a lack of knowledge and confidence in dealing with vaping in young people which was leading to a lack of willingness to address the issue.

Description of Intervention: One of our initiatives was to develop the *Vape Check* tool. *Vape Check* was developed by Dovetail in 2022 in consultation with the Queensland Youth AOD sector and then additionally 65 workers across relevant fields after reviewing relevant literature. Accompanying this tool is a Vape Check Guide and Vaping Harms resource which are available to clinicians and services via the Dovetail website.

Implementation: From February to May 2023, we have had (or over 520?) 527 free downloads of this tool (this excludes people who have downloaded the tool more than once). Overall, workers (nurses, youth workers, allied health workers and health promotion officers) reported increased confidence and knowledge in conducting a brief intervention for vaping in young people following accessing this tool. We were also able to obtain qualitative feedback about using this brief intervention in the community.

Conclusion and Next Steps: Having a freely available resource has helped workers engage in discussions about vaping in young people. Vape Check 2.0 has now been developed which reflects changes based on feedback from workers.

1. Banks E YA, Brown S, Nguyen M, Martin M, Beckwith K, Daluwatta A, Campbell S, Joshy G. . Electronic cigarettes and health outcomes: systematic review of global evidence. Canberra: National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; 2022 [cited 2023 23 Feb]. Available from: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/ecigarettes/Electronic_cigarettes_and_health_outcomes_%20systematic_review_of_evidence.pdf.

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