

31 August 2022

Health Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

By email: he@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou katoa

**DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION: SMOKEFREE ENVIRONMENTS AND REGULATED PRODUCTS
(SMOKED TOBACCO) AMENDMENT BILL**

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill (the Bill).

Submission

2. The DCC is committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of the people of Dunedin and ensuring a resilient and sustainable future, and is pleased to submit in overall support of the Bill.
3. The DCC supports the goal of the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan which aims to have a daily smoking prevalence of less than five percent for all population groups in New Zealand by 2025 (excluding vaping and smokeless tobacco products).
4. The DCC supports the desired outcomes of the Action Plan to:
 - eliminate inequities in smoking rates and smoking related illnesses;
 - create a smokefree generation by increasing the number of children and young people who remain smokefree; and
 - increase the number of people who successfully quit smoking.
5. Specifically, the DCC is supportive of legislative amendments that:
 - limit the number of retailers able to sell smoked tobacco products;
 - aim to prevent young people from taking up smoking by prohibiting the sale of smoked tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009; and
 - aim to make smoked tobacco products less appealing and addictive by regulating nicotine content.

6. The DCC supports the requirement that the Director-General of Health set a maximum number of approved tobacco retailers, with proximity limits to sensitive sites such as education settings.
7. The DCC supports that requirements be put in place for approval as a specialist vape retailer, including that it is a suitable permanent structure and a stand-alone business. It supports the development of density and proximity limits to prevent the clustering of vaping product retailers and protect young people.
8. The DCC recognises the role that Local Authorities can undertake in relation to setting and enforcing proximity limits. The DCC is active in ensuring public health and safety in public places, through mechanisms such as: its Legal Highs Policy 2020, which includes proximity limits around a number of sensitive sites; and its Trading in Public Places Bylaw 2020, wherein the promotion of smokefree and vape-free outdoor hospitality is a condition of all commercial use of footpath permits.
9. The DCC's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi includes working in partnership to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision making processes. It supports the sections of the Bill that contain specific requirements for consultation with Māori around the approval process for smoked tobacco retailers and where these will be located.

Conclusion

10. The DCC thanks you for the opportunity to submit on this topic.
11. The DCC would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission.

Yours faithfully



Aaron Hawkins
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN