



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Vaping Concerns

The Tasmanian Association of State Schools (TASSO) is concerned about the increasing trend of vaping in Tasmanian state schools. If vaping is not controlled soon, it has the potential to spiral out of control. While vaping appears to be less harmful than tobacco-based smoking, it is not good for health. Studies have yet to determine the long-term effects of vaping, and we should not want our children to be part of this study into the negative health effects.

TASSO believes that the popularity of vaping among students is probably due to the sense of a “cool, rebellious image” associated with it. Coupled with the fact that vaping is more affordable than smoking, more convenient, less harsh than smoking, and harder to detect, its increasing popularity is creating a challenge for educators to monitor and control usage of vapes.

While vape detectors might deter students from certain areas of the school, they are not effective in stopping vaping. TASSO believes that punishment, such as suspension, is not an acceptable option, as it will only contribute to an already increasing suspension rate. Considerable fines may be imposed, but they would only place families under further extreme financial pressure and potentially lead to decreased school attendance. At the end of the day, our students are still addicted to vaping.

TASSO believes the only real way to control vaping is for the federal government to change the legislation, ban e-cigarettes and cease the importation of such devices. TASSO also strongly encourages the government to revisit the T21 policy.

TASSO urges the state and federal government to take necessary action to control vaping and protect the health of our students.

For further comment contact:

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