# Vape Sellers Prepare to Go Underground: Navigating Anti-Vaping Reforms in Australia

In the face of impending anti-vaping laws in Australia, wholesale vape suppliers are bracing themselves for significant changes. However, they are assuring their customers that they will not be disappearing altogether. With the ban on certain vaping products, vendors are warning about potential price increases and encouraging customers to stock up while they still can. In this article, we will explore the impact of the upcoming regulations on the Australian vape industry and how sellers are preparing to adapt and navigate through uncertain times.

## The Crackdown on Vaping

Amid the anti-smoking reforms, online wholesale vape suppliers, particularly those dealing in single-use or disposable vapes, are expected to be the most affected. Recently, one popular Sydney-based national supplier sent out an email newsletter titled "The Crackdown is REAL" to their customers, alerting them to the current situation within the industry. The supplier emphasized the arrest of one of their competitors, highlighting the uncertain times ahead and urging customers to stock up on vape supplies. Additionally, they mentioned an impending price increase due to supply and demand dynamics.

## **Tightening Regulations and Enforcement**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Australian Border Force have been working closely to identify and evaluate nicotine vaping products entering the country. They have issued infringements and emphasized the need for all personal imports of such products to be accompanied by a prescription from an Australian medical practitioner. Since May 1, 2023, thousands of non-compliant imports have been identified, and certificates have been issued to facilitate their seizure under the Customs Act. The TGA has already issued infringement notices related to unlawful imports of nicotine vaping products, reinforcing the seriousness of the enforcement efforts.

#### Resilience on Social Media

Vape suppliers have taken to social media platforms like TikTok to reassure their customers that they will continue operating despite the new laws. Creative videos featuring iconic scenes and characters, such as Leonardo DiCaprio's Jordan Belfort from "The Wolf of Wall Street," have emerged. These videos humorously convey the message that the suppliers are not leaving the market. The suppliers aim to maintain a strong presence and demonstrate their determination to persevere, even in the face of regulatory challenges.

# Impending Measures and Their Impact

While the measures to ban the importation of non-prescription vaping products are yet to pass parliament, they are expected to significantly impact the industry. The government plans to introduce minimum quality standards for vapes, including restrictions on flavors, colors, and other ingredients. Vape products will also need pharmaceutical-like packaging. Furthermore, nicotine concentrations and volumes will be reduced, and all single-use, disposable vapes will face a complete ban. These measures aim to address the increasing health risks associated with vaping, particularly among children.

# Vaping's Evolution and Concerns

Health Minister Mark Butler, in response to a comprehensive review conducted by the TGA, highlighted the evolution of vaping from a therapeutic aid to a recreational product. Originally marketed as a tool to assist long-term smokers in quitting, vaping has now become a major behavioral issue in high schools, even infiltrating primary schools. Concerns about the health risks associated with vaping, especially among children, have prompted the government to take action. The chemicals found in vapes, numbering over 200, are not suitable for inhalation, with some being similar to those found in nail polish remover and weed killer.

### Conclusion

As Australian vape suppliers gear up for the implementation of anti-vaping laws, they are preparing to adapt and find new ways to continue serving their customers. Despite the challenges posed by impending regulations, these merchants are demonstrating resilience and determination to remain in the market. Customers are encouraged to stock up on vape supplies before potential price hikes and supply disruptions occur. The measures to ban non-prescription vaping products, introduce quality standards, and restrict flavors and packaging aim to address health risks, especially among young people. It remains to be seen how the industry will evolve and how vape sellers will navigate the changing landscape.

## **FAQs**

- 1. How will the anti-vaping laws affect Australian vape suppliers? The anti-vaping laws are expected to impact wholesale vape suppliers, particularly those dealing in single-use or disposable vapes. These products are earmarked for a total ban, leading to potential price increases and supply disruptions.
- **2. Are vape suppliers shutting down due to the new laws?** Vape suppliers have taken to social media platforms to reassure customers that they will not shut down. Creative videos and posts demonstrate their determination to continue operating despite the regulatory challenges.
- 3. What enforcement measures are being taken to regulate vaping products? The Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Border Force are closely monitoring nicotine vaping products entering the country. Infringements have been issued, and personal imports must be accompanied by a prescription from an Australian medical practitioner.
- **4. What are the concerns associated with vaping, especially among children?** Vaping has become a major behavioral issue in high schools and is increasingly prevalent in primary schools. Health risks associated with vaping, particularly among children, have prompted regulatory action due to the presence of over 200 chemicals that are not suitable for inhalation.
- **5. What are the proposed measures to regulate vaping in Australia?** The proposed measures include a ban on the importation of non-prescription vaping products, the introduction of minimum quality standards, restrictions on flavors and packaging, reduced nicotine concentrations and volumes, and a complete ban on single-use, disposable vapes.