

NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

COMMUNIQUE 02 - JULY 2023



Welcome to Communiqué #2 for the North Coast Youth Vaping (NCYV) Taskforce

The key aim of the NCYV Taskforce is to take a collaborative and community-informed approach to protect young people, under 18 years of age on the NSW Mid and North Coast, from the harms of e-cigarettes.

Thank you to our members for your contribution and collaborative efforts to plan and inform this work and for participating in the community forums held in June (refer to pg. 2)

During this time, NSW Health in partnership with NSW Police through the Taskforce Regulatory Working Group, seized more than \$400,000 worth of illicit vapes and illicit cigarettes, as part of compliance activities on the North Coast. The operation removed nearly 8,000 vaping units from sale.

The Australian Government has recently announced groundbreaking reforms to reduce the significant damage caused by vaping through stronger legislation, enforcement, education and support.

Read more about the recent changes:

[2 May 2023 Media Release Minister for Health and Aged Care – Taking Action on Smoking and Vaping](#)

Key Achievements to date:

- Strong stakeholder engagement in the NCYV Working Group
- Formation of the North Coast Youth Vaping Taskforce Regulatory Group with key members of Public Health and NSW Police with regular meetings occurring and reporting back to the Taskforce and Working Groups
- Partnership with National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) to support evaluation of Taskforce and key initiatives
- Development and circulation of Teacher and Parent newsletter snippets and social media tiles
- Development and presentation of an online webinar for teachers presenting key features of the newsletter and social media information
- Planning and delivery of two NCYV Community Forums in June - Coffs Harbour and Ballina
- Distribution of a parent survey, capturing the perspective of over 300 North Coast parents
- Approval and development of a youth vaping health professional 'pathway' lead by Healthy North Coast
- Presentations for health professionals at Healthy North Coast (PHN) Clinical Society Meetings across the North Coast
- Ongoing [Youth Vaping Communication Hub](#) updates

NSW Youth Vaping Data Released

Dr Kerry Chant, NSW Health Chief Health Officer, shared a video presentation at the NCYV community forums outlining concerning new data showing a rapid increase in the use of e-cigarettes by young people.

The NSW Population Health Survey released on 31 May, World No Tobacco Day found:

- In the past 3 years the proportion of young people 16 - 24 years who have ever used an e-cigarette (or Vape) has **more than doubled**
 - from 21.4% in 2019/2020 to 43.2% in 2021/2022
- The proportion of 16-24 year olds who are daily or occasional users has **more than tripled**
 - from 4.5% in 2019/2020 to 16.8% in 2021/2022

Source: Health Stats NSW



Members of the North Coast Youth Vaping Taskforce at the Coffs Harbour community forum in June

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Milestones and timeline

From August 2022

Consultation

- Consult with community, education, youth, parents, government and non-government organisations
- Review themes and collate.



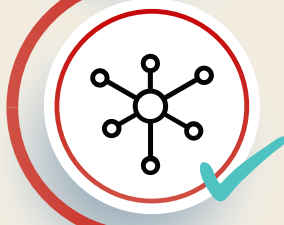
Establish Taskforce

- Identify key partners and governance structure
- Identify appropriate youth networks to update regularly
- Hold inaugural meeting.



Communication Hub

- Develop communication plan
- Website hub with up-to-date evidence-based information, resources and webinars
- Youth and parent surveys available
- Project communiques.



2023

Establish taskforce working groups

- Identify key stakeholders to join working group, including youth representatives
- Develop local actions to address key priorities identified by members.



Youth Vaping Forum

- Present consultation findings to a forum of key stakeholders and identify opportunities for collaboration, implementation, gaps in knowledge and community needs.
- Co-design initiatives with youth to empower young people to make positive decisions about their health.



Regional Action Plan

- Develop a Regional Action Plan to coordinate collaborative actions to reduce uptake and the harms of youth vaping.



North Coast Youth Vaping Taskforce Community Forums June 2023

The North Coast Youth Vaping Taskforce hosted two community forums in Coffs Harbour and Ballina in June.

The aim of the forums was to capture the perspectives of young people, community and organisational stakeholders to inform the development of a regional action plan.

87 stakeholders participated at forums, with representatives from NSW Health, Aboriginal Services, Department of Education, Headspace, Cancer Council, various non-government organisations and young people.

The main themes that arose during the forum discussions included:

- Health impacts
- Education and the school environment
- Access to vapes
- Key influences on vaping behaviour
- Health education.

There was coverage of the forums from several media outlets including radio, print and television.

Evaluation surveys are being completed by forum attendees and results will be shared when available.

The next steps from these forums will be to collate the discussions, ideas and feedback, and draft the themes, priorities and strategies identified. Further input and consultation will then occur with members from the North Coast Youth Vaping Taskforce, youth and students, community and broader stakeholder groups to prepare the Regional Action Plan.



Attendees at the North Coast Youth Vaping Forum in Coffs Harbour

Contact information

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