



社區藥物教育輔導會 Community Drug Advisory Council

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本會為香港公益金資助機構及香港社會服務聯會成員

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Legislative Council Panel on Health Services:

### **Legislative Proposal to Prohibit E-cigarettes**

CDAC was established in 1985. The mission of CDAC is to prevent drug misuse and to minimize drug-related harm. Our service aims to raise community awareness and promote healthy lifestyle choices. The following are our suggestions to enhance tobacco control policies.

#### **I. Current situation**

CDAC provides anti-drug preventive education programmes throughout Hong Kong. In 2014-2015, many primary & secondary school teachers and social workers enquired about the components of e-cigarettes, their related harm and regulatory policies, and CDAC was invited to provide preventive education programmes to schools. CDAC received information that some shops provided free e-cigarettes in order to attract young customers. Some students bought e-cigarette due to curiosity or peer influence, and some family members bought the products not knowing what they are. This increases the risk of drug misuse. E-cigarettes have a wide range of design, flavour and appearance in order to attract youngsters' attention. CDAC noticed that more and more youngsters use e-cigarettes. Various e-cigarettes are sold in the community and through popular social media. CDAC is worried about the increasing trend of usage of e-cigarettes by youngsters. According to the World Health Organization, many e-cigarette packages fail to label the components and harmful substance in the e-cigarettes. It will cause harm to the health of the public and teenagers. Tobacco is viewed as the gateway drug toward drug abuse, e-cigarettes increase the probability of addiction to tobacco and thus increase the risk of drug abuse among youngsters.

#### **II. Suggestions**

1. In view of the fact that e-cigarettes causes harm to the general public, especially the health of teenagers, CDAC suggests a total ban of the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes through legislation.
2. Increase public awareness of e-cigarettes by incorporating it into anti-drug education.

3. We urge the government to provide additional resources for public education (especially teenagers) for preventive purposes.
4. Appeal to the public, especially parents, not to purchase any e-cigarette products, and to stop using it if they have already obtained such products.
5. Appeal to schools and parents to conduct preventive education in schools and at home as soon as possible, so as to allow teenagers to gain knowledge of the health risks of such products, and reinforce their resolve in refusing drugs and any materials that affect health; and encourage parents to lead as an example by developing a healthy lifestyle. The Department of Health or other professional organizations for quitting smoking can be contacted if necessary.

Community Drug Advisory Council

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(For information on e-cigarettes and anti-drug education, please contact us.)

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