

# Hon Casey Costello

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Minister of Customs

Minister for Seniors

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Immigration

Associate Minister of Police



10 MAR 2025

Dr Buzz Burrell  
Chair  
General Practitioners Aotearoa  
c/o [communications@gpaotearoa.co.nz](mailto:communications@gpaotearoa.co.nz)

Ref. CCH0995

Dear Dr Burrell

I acknowledge your correspondence of 21 January 2025 regarding General Practitioners Aotearoa's opposition to Government funding of vaping products to support people to quit smoking.

The Government is committed to reducing New Zealand's smoking rates and this means ensuring that people have the practical tools and supports to quit smoking, including being able to access free quit smoking support, such as vape starter kits.

We know that vaping has been an important enabler for many people to become and remain smokefree. Vape starter kits have been introduced as a practical option for individuals who smoke and are engaged with a stop-smoking service, as a much less harmful alternative to smoking.

As Associate Minister of Health, I have engaged extensively with frontline stop-smoking services around the country and have listened to their feedback which has consistently supported the provision of vapes to assist smokers in their cessation journey.

The Government's position is that vaping is an appropriate alternative for smokers as part of their quit journey. The recent Cochrane review supports this position. You find the review here: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010216.pub9/full>.

The Government has recently acted to strengthen vaping regulations with the aim of reducing youth uptake. You can read about this here: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/welcome-progress-youth-vaping](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/welcome-progress-youth-vaping).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CC', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Casey Costello  
**Associate Minister of Health**