

**A statement from Dr Colin Mendelsohn:**

**During the interview I asked you whether you had received any funding from tobacco, vaping or related industry sources and you said, “None whatsoever, I’ve never received funding from the vaping companies or the tobacco companies and all my advocacy is at my own expense.” Can you confirm you have never received any funding?**

That is correct.

**Have you received any non-financial, in-kind assistance, gifts or sponsored travel and accommodation from tobacco, vaping or related industry sources such as retailers?**

No.

**When you were affiliated with the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association it received donations from vaping companies including for set-up costs. ABC Media Watch and Fairfax reported ATHRA received almost \$43,000 from vaping companies. Why did you appear not to disclose this link in a 2019 interview with Channel 9 when you were asked about it?**

I was asked if I had personally received funding from industry, I answered that I had not. When I was asked if ATHRA had received donations from industry sources I acknowledged those donations which had previously been publicly declared. They were two separate questions which were answered truthfully. In the final editing, it was implied that my answer about personal donations was referring to ATHRA’s donations.

**Did ATHRA receive any further financial or in-kind support from tobacco, vaping or industry sources during your time with the Association?**

ATHRA received unconditional start-up funding from two vape companies, Nicopharm and Nicovape to help cover the initial legal and website costs of establishing the charity in 2018. This has been on the public record from the beginning. The sponsors were listed on the ATHRA website and the funding was announced at an international conference in July 2018. The sponsor names were removed from the website on legal advice as this was seen as promoting/advertising them (letter from lawyers available if required). Since March 2019, ATHRA has no longer accepted any donations from the vaping industry.

I should add that ATHRA’s policy in accepting donations from the vaping industry (initially) is no different to most other charities which accept funding from commercial and other organisations with similar objectives and goals. For example, Big Pharma is a major donor of other health charities which promote their goals and treatments.

**Last year the ABC reported ATHRA had received assistance from the PR company Burson Cohn & Wolfe involved in a campaign to legalise vaping and the PR company had a unique username responsible for at least 10 posts on the site. What was the nature of the relationship with Burson Cohn & Wolfe and why did that occur?**

I ceased being a director of ATHRA in January 2021. During my time as a director, ATHRA had no relationship with Burson Cohn & Wolfe.

**Does ATHRA receiving but not disclosing donations from vaping companies at all times during its history create a perception that it has not always been transparent with the public?**

No. ATHRA has been completely transparent at all times as explained above.

**Are there any other kinds of funding, or in-kind support relevant to this story involving you or the Association that has not been disclosed to the ABC?**

No.