

Philip Morris Limited declined an interview with Four Corners.

In response to detailed written questions, Philip Morris responded with the following statement.

Youth access of vaping products that are being openly sold across the country, in contravention of federal and state laws, are a legitimate concern for schools, parents and the wider community. Most Australians have no idea that these products are illegally imported and distributed, including by organised crime syndicates.

Legitimate, regulated manufacturers, such as Philip Morris, comply with the government's regulatory framework and play no part in this illegal trade.

Australian authorities, at both Commonwealth and state level, are equipped with robust powers to address youth access and seize illegal products, however, at present it is clear that not enough is being done to enforce the law and tackle illegal trade at the border or street level.

In announcing the introduction of the prescription vaping model the Commonwealth Government's stated aim was to "...prevent adolescents and young adults from taking-up nicotine e-cigarettes while allowing current smokers to access these products for smoking cessation on their doctor's advice." <https://www.tga.gov.au/media-release/tga-confirms-nicotine-e-cigarette-access-prescription-only>

PMI's smoke-free products are only offered as an alternative for adults who would otherwise continue to smoke. Former smokers and non-smokers, especially youth, should not use nicotine containing products.

Our alternative products are designed and offered with only one audience in mind, existing adult smokers who would otherwise continue to smoke.

Adult smokers deserve accurate information about all options available to them – and especially about those that present less risk of harm. They deserve reasoned debate and access to factual information.

Philip Morris believes that with the right regulatory frameworks, dialogue and support from civil society cigarette sales can end within 10 to 15 years in many countries, including Australia.

The WHO estimates there will still be more than 1 billion smokers in the world in 2025, roughly the same number as today. So with regard to our own business, we are only interested in providing suitable smoke-free products to those adults who would otherwise continue to smoke, thereby assisting them to switch to better alternatives.

Our research is openly available and we encourage independent experts to review our scientific results. To date over 50 independent studies, including from government research centres, such as the U.S. FDA, Public Health England, the Dutch Federal Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM), and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), have all confirmed important findings from our research.

Our donations to the National Party are no secret, widely reported in the media, and published by the Australian Electoral Commission.

Knowledge Action Change (KAC) is an independent organization, any questions regarding KAC should be directed to them.

PMI's science and clinical research can be found at pmiscience.com and ClinicalTrials.gov