



Australian Government

Illicit Tobacco and  
E-cigarette Commissioner

The background features a large, billowing cloud of white smoke on the right side, set against a dark blue geometric shape on the left. Below the smoke, there are several overlapping geometric shapes in dark blue, gold, and light blue.

# Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner Report 2024 to 2025

A national picture of the illicit market  
Easy Read Version

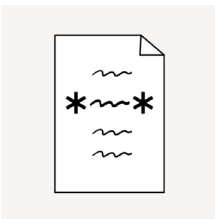
# About Easy Read



This is an Easy Read book.



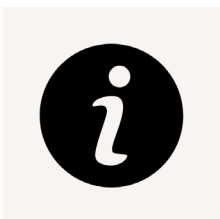
Easy Read uses simple words and pictures to explain ideas.



New words are **\*bold with stars\***.



We tell you what new words mean.



Easy Read is a summary.



Get more information on our website  
[www.itec.gov.au](http://www.itec.gov.au)

# Who made this book?



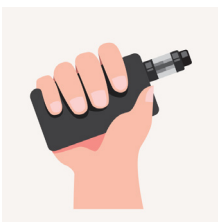
This book is by the **\*Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner\***.



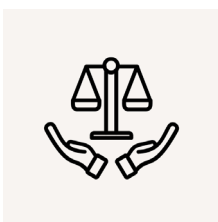
**\*Illicit tobacco\*** is tobacco that is not legal in Australia because it is not **\*taxed\***.



Taxed means some of the money from a sale goes back to the government.



**\*E-cigarettes\*** are electronic cigarettes. They are also called vapes.



A commissioner is a person in charge of decisions to help keep things fair and safe.

# What is this book about?

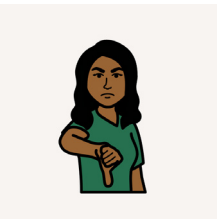


This book explains why illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes are

- against the law



- a big problem in Australia

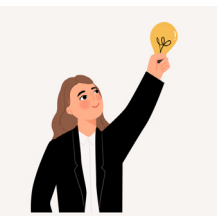


- bad for our community.



We also explain

- the work that has been done so far



- next steps.

# About illicit tobacco



Illicit tobacco is against the law because taxes have not been paid.

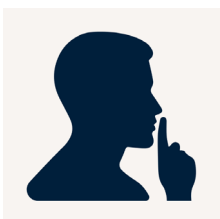


Taxes might not be paid because

- tobacco crops were grown illegally in Australia



- tobacco has been **\*smuggled\*** into Australia from a different country.

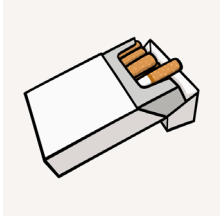


Smuggled means something is brought into a country in an illegal way.



Australia has strong health laws about

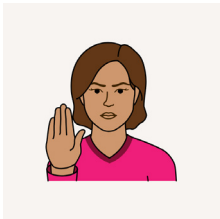
- who sells tobacco



- packaging of tobacco products



- health warnings on tobacco products.



Illicit tobacco does not usually follow health laws.

# About illicit e-cigarettes



In Australia, e-cigarettes must be sold at your chemist or pharmacy.



Other shops that sell e-cigarettes are against the law.



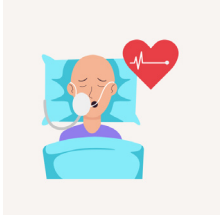
E-cigarettes sold at other shops

- might not follow safety standards



- can be dangerous.

# What is the problem?

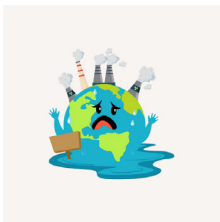


Illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes are a problem because they can be

- bad for people's health



- sold by people who break the law



- bad for our planet



- a fire hazard.





Other crimes including violence happen at shops that sell illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes.



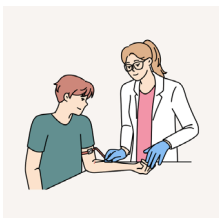
This makes communities feel less safe.



Illicit tobacco is also a problem because it is not taxed.



The taxed money is used for services and programs our community needs.



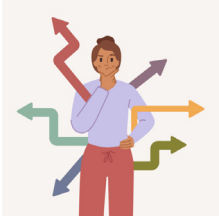
Community needs might be

- hospitals



- services that help people stop smoking.

# Why people buy illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes



People might buy illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes for many different reasons.

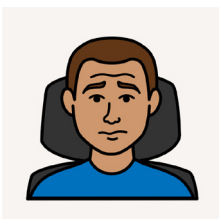


People can get **\*addicted\*** to **\*nicotine\*** in tobacco and e-cigarettes.

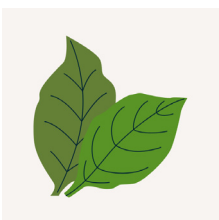


Addicted means

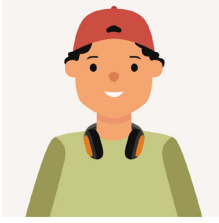
- your body needs more of it over time



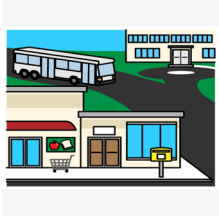
- it can be hard to stop using it.



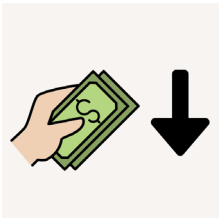
Nicotine is a chemical in tobacco and e-cigarettes.



Many people younger than 40 prefer e-cigarettes compared to normal cigarettes.



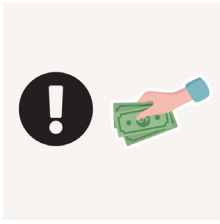
A lot of shops sell them.



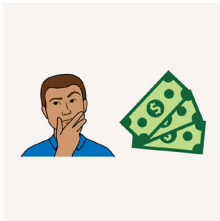
Pricing is different because tax is not paid.



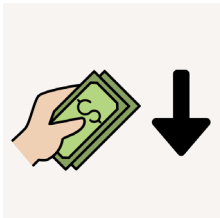
People do not understand the links to crime.



Cash sales make it easier for criminals to hide illegal money activity.



Criminals make money from illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes for many reasons.



Criminals do not pay tax so that they can make more money.



Laws to manage illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes are not as strong compared to other illegal products.

# Work done so far

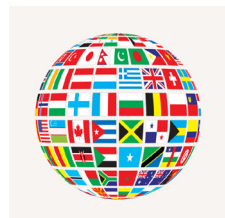


So far we have

- come up with a way to measure the size of the illicit market



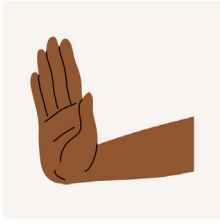
- worked with police, health and governments around Australia to share information



- worked with other countries and the **\*United Nations\***.

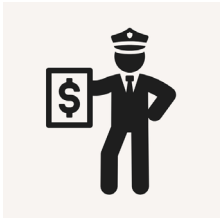


The United Nations help human rights across the world.



Lots of work has been done to

- find and stop illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes from coming into Australia

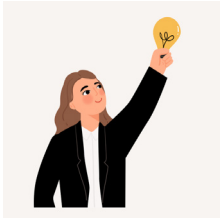


- take cash and other items from criminals



- change laws to make it harder for criminals to do crimes.

# Next steps



There is not just 1 way to fix the problem.



There are many things we must do.



**\*Stronger laws\*** can help.



Stronger laws might change

- the cost of fines businesses must pay if they sell illicit tobacco or e-cigarettes



- the rules a business follows to have a license to sell tobacco



**\*Working together\*** can help reduce the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette problem.



Working together means

- we join our powers and teams to get better results

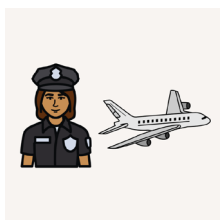


- **\*organisations and agencies\*** help each other.



Organisations and agencies might be

- the police



- border protection



- **\*regulatory agencies\*** that help make laws and standards for a country.

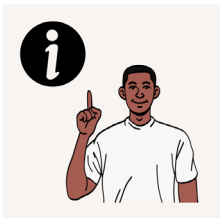




**\*Sharing information\*** can help the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette problem.



We want to find new ways for organisations and agencies to share information.



Having good information helps everyone to

- understand the problem



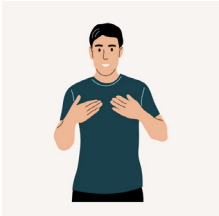
- plan next steps



- have a stronger impact.



It is important to understand **\*consumers\*** of illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes.



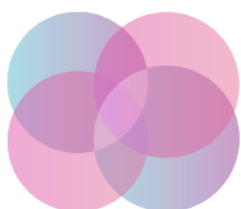
Consumers are people who buy illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes.



We can help consumers when we understand their choices.



For example, we can teach people things they might not know about the problem.



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