



## Participant Information Sheet

### Who are the researchers behind this study?

Sinan Brown, a PhD student at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (Australian National University) is the Chief Investigator. His PhD is investigating electronic cigarette (e-cigarette/vape) use among Australian youth and recent changes to how e-cigarettes are regulated in Australia, with this study forming one part of his PhD thesis.

Distinguished Professor Emily Banks AM, Dr Kellia Chiu, Ms Emma Dean, Dr Elizabeth Greenhalgh, Dr Amy Villarosa and Dr Christina Watts are Associate Investigators on the project.

### Project title

Australian community pharmacists and electronic cigarettes: exploring views and experiences in light of national changes to regulation.

### Outline of the project

**What is the purpose of the study?** The purpose of this national interview study is to understand the views, experiences and practices of Australian community pharmacists relating to e-cigarette/vape supply in light of recent regulatory changes. We are hoping to capture a range of views and experiences, so we will recruit pharmacists (between 20 and 30) from different Australian states/territories, different types of pharmacies (e.g. independent, banner) and pharmacies that do and do not supply e-cigarettes.

**Why is the study being conducted?** Australia is a world leader in tobacco control with a unique pharmacy-only supply model for e-cigarettes. Successful implementation of this new model could set a global benchmark for public health. Understanding the perceptions and experiences of Australian pharmacists, and barriers and facilitators to policy implementation, may inform future policy and practice. This could confer benefits for pharmacists in their service delivery and patients themselves.

**What are the eligibility criteria for participation?** To be eligible for participation you must fulfill this criterion at the time of recruitment:

1. Community pharmacist who currently holds general registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Please note that your interest/eligibility in participating does not guarantee participation as we require a diverse national sample.

**How will my data be used and presented?** Findings from the study will be included in Sinan's PhD thesis and journal papers. You nor the pharmacy(s) you work in will be identifiable.

**Will I get a copy of the results?** You may receive a summary of key findings at the study's conclusion. At the end of the interview please indicate if you are interested in receiving these findings; your name and email address will be collected.

**Who is funding the project?** This research is being funded by The Australian National University and The Daffodil Centre (joint partnership between Cancer Council NSW and The University of Sydney).

## What does participation involve?

You will be invited to take part in a one-on-one Zoom interview at a time of your choosing. You will first be asked questions about you and your pharmacy(s). You will then be asked about your views, experiences and practices since new laws were introduced in 2024 banning the sale of e-cigarette products outside of pharmacies and allowing supply of products with nicotine concentration of 20 mg/mL or less to adults without a prescription in all states and territories except Tasmania and Western Australia.

The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed for data analysis. There will be no repeat interviews. Your interview transcript will not be provided to you for review. Your audio recording is only accessible by Sinan (Chief Investigator) and will be securely destroyed once the transcript has been checked for accuracy.

**Is participation voluntary and is it possible to withdraw?** Participation in this study is completely voluntary. After we receive your expression of interest form (see below), a member of the research team will email you to check if you have any questions, provide the written consent form and check when you are free to be interviewed. If you do not respond after two weeks, a follow-up email will be sent. If there is no response after a further week, a telephone call will be made. If we do not hear from you after a further week (a total of four weeks since the initial email was sent) this will result in study withdrawal.

You may choose not to answer specific interview questions. You may withdraw from the study during the interview. In this instance, the recording will cease and not be part of the analysis.

You may withdraw from the study up until one month after your interview. Consent cannot be withdrawn after this stage as your interview transcript will have identifying information removed or altered so it won't be possible to link you to a transcript. There will be no consequences of withdrawing from the study.

**What is the location and duration?** Your interview will be conducted over Zoom at a time of your choosing (within or outside traditional working hours, including Saturday/Sunday). Your interview is expected to be 30 minutes in duration, but may go longer with your verbal consent.

**Is there remuneration?** Upon completion of your interview, you will be reimbursed for your time with a \$100 gift voucher.

**What are the risks?** You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. You may choose not to answer certain questions or cease the interview. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the study, the interviewer will stop the interview immediately and offer support in contacting free counselling services including Beyond Blue or Lifeline.

**What are the benefits?** We cannot guarantee that you will receive direct benefits from this research project. Possible benefits include contributing to improved knowledge and understanding of pharmacists' views and experiences and changes to pharmacy policy and practice.

## How is my confidentiality protected?

**Is my data confidential?** Confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows. We will only collect information that is essential for the study. Research data will be securely stored on an ANU-approved secure data management platform, protected by password and multi-factor authentication. In publications arising from the research, information that could identify you will be removed or altered in a process known as de-identification, and an ID number used (e.g. P1, P2).

**Who will have access to my data?** Only designated members of the research team will have access to your data.

**Will I be identifiable?** Your online interview will be at a time/place of your choosing to ensure you are not identified. An ID number is being used in publications arising from this research; you and your pharmacy(s) will never be identifiable.

## Privacy notice

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at [https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP\\_010007](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_010007). It contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information; and
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

## Where will my data be stored?

Identifiable data about you e.g. interview recordings, will be individually password-protected and stored in separate folders to research data. No data will be stored on personal devices. Physical materials will be stored in a locked ANU office.

**How long will it be stored?** De-identified research data will be stored for a minimum period of five years from the date of publication of findings.

**How will my data be handled following the required storage period?** After the five-year period has elapsed, your data will be securely destroyed.

## Interested in participating?

If you are interested in participating, please click [here](#). Or click on the QR code. If the hyperlink and QR do not work, please enter this URL into a browser: <https://bit.ly/vape-pharmacy>. As noted above, your interest/eligibility in participating does not guarantee participation as we require a diverse national sample.



## Queries and concerns

**Contact details for more information:** If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Sinan, the Chief Investigator:

Phone: +61 415 353 015

Email: [sinan.brown@anu.edu.au](mailto:sinan.brown@anu.edu.au)

You may also contact Sinan's supervisor Dr Amy Villarosa, who is an Associate Investigator:

Phone: +61 2 6125 2925

Email: [amy.villarosa@anu.edu.au](mailto:amy.villarosa@anu.edu.au)

## Ethics committee clearance

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol H/2026/0464).

If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager

The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee

The Australian National University

Phone: +61 2 6125 3427

Email: [human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au)