

# THE CRITICS' CHOICE

## The health effects of tobacco smoking and e-cigarette use

### Effect of tobacco smoking on your health:

- Smoking is the main cause of **preventable** death and disease in Australia!
- Smoking is linked to **40+ diseases**, including lung cancer, liver cancer, emphysema and eye and mouth diseases.
- When you smoke, extremely harmful chemicals enter your body and can reach your heart, brain and go everywhere your blood flows.
- Smoking affects how you look and feel.

### Effects of e-cigarette use on your health:

- E-cigarettes contain chemicals that **haven't been tested for safety** when inhaled into the lungs.
- E-cigarette makers don't list all their ingredients and it can be hard to find out what they are. Some e-cigarettes contain nicotine even when they are labelled "nicotine free".
- Nicotine is **highly addictive** and can harm your brain development.
- Studies have shown that young people who use e-cigarettes are **more likely to smoke** and become addicted to cigarettes in adulthood.

#### Smoking can:

- Stop your lungs growing properly and make you less fit.
- Give you tooth decay and sore or bleeding gums.
- Make you wheeze or trigger an asthma attack.
- Cause addiction to the drug nicotine.

#### Using e-cigarettes can:

- Make you wheeze or trigger an asthma attack.
- Make you moody, anxious and irritable.
- Expose your lungs, body and brain to harmful chemicals.
- Cause addiction to the drug nicotine.

### Smoking and e-cigarettes affect your brain:

Your brain is particularly sensitive to the effects of nicotine. Your brain is still developing until you are about 25 years old, so if you use nicotine your brain may not be able to properly develop. This means that you are more likely to develop anxiety and mood disorders.

### What does all this mean for you?

Smoking or using e-cigarettes:

- is bad for the health of your body, lungs and brain
- costs a lot of money and can mean you miss out on doing fun activities
- exposes you to addictive and unknown substances
- gives you yellow teeth and unhealthy gums.

**By choosing not to smoke or use e-cigarettes you are setting yourself up  
for a healthier and happier life!**