

# Tobacco and vape changes in SA

1 July 2024 | Licensing and enforcement transfers to CBS

## What's changing?

Licensing and enforcement functions for the sale and supply of tobacco and vapes in South Australia transfer to Consumer and Business Services (CBS) as of 1 July 2024.

The South Australian government has allocated \$16 million over the next 4 years to boost regulation and oversight, given the threat posed by a rapid increase in vaping among young people.

## Why?

South Australia is re-positioning to tackle rapid growth in the distribution and sale of illegal tobacco as well as an emerging market in illegal vapes nationally. This requires more than a public health response.

Regulating the sale of tobacco and vape products also aligns closely with the work CBS already undertakes, licensing several occupations.

## Smoking in public places

The enforcement and administration relating to smoke-free public places remains a focus by SA Health which will also continue to develop policy and lead public health matters regarding illegal tobacco and vaping products.

## Renewing or applying for a licence

From 1 July 2024, CBS will provide more details to retail tobacco licence holders as their existing licences approach expiry. This will include instructions for renewal through online smart forms, what is required, and how to pay on application.

Renewal reminders received from SA Health before 1 July 2024 should be processed directly with SA Health, even if that is being actioned after 1 July 2024. Licences issued will be updated in CBS' systems.

## Will requirements change with my licence?

Tobacco retailers will be informed of legal requirements and conditions for licensing.

CBS is considering what additional information may be appropriate in the future, to ensure applicants are fit and proper to hold a licence.

Retailers will be notified of any additional supporting documents required on application.

A register of approved tobacco retailers in SA will be produced and maintained by CBS.

## **What about illegal sale and supply?**

The expansion of CBS' compliance and enforcement duties will allow investigators to focus on unlicensed retail stores as they seek to stamp out illegal sale and supply of tobacco and vapes.

CBS will also work closely with law enforcement agencies and national authorities in pursuit of illicit trade.

## **How will enforcement change?**

CBS will work collaboratively with national regulators to disrupt the industry and change behaviour.

CBS will use the full range of compliance and enforcement tools available, including prosecution proceedings.

CBS staff will also have the power to:

- cancel or suspend licences which permit the sale of tobacco – as well as impose conditions on those licences
- enter and search premises, seize tobacco or vape products and records
- issue expiation notices relating to offences.

Licensing enquiries can be made with [occupational@sa.gov.au](mailto:occupational@sa.gov.au), [www.cbs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cbs.sa.gov.au) or [131 882](tel:131882).