



2 March 2023

Associate Professor Kate McBride
President
Public Health Association of Australia NSW Branch

Email: policy@phaa.net.au

Dear President McBride,

Thank you for submitting the PHAA NSW Branch 2023 NSW Election Platform. Labor Leader Chris Minns has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Ask 1 – Protect children and young people from nicotine addiction and risk of smoking uptake by making it an offense to supply or sell non-nicotine e-cigarette products.

Reports show that parents, teachers and principals are concerned that vaping and e-cigarettes in schools has gotten out of control with internal departmental documents showing that reported incidents of vaping had increased by 771% in the space of one year.

Alarming, these reports also show that vaping is occurring in primary schools as well as high schools.

Principals and teachers have been pleading with the NSW Government to take action and help with the rapidly growing problem. A 2021 email from the principal of a Coffs Harbour High School to the Department of Education shows that vaping has become an issue “that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency”.

In response to the growing problem, NSW Labor has a plan to address it:

1. In the immediate term, NSW Labor supports the implementation of e-cigarette detectors in common vaping spaces like bathrooms for schools where this problem is getting out of control.
2. NSW Labor will host a roundtable on smoking and vaping in schools within the first year of Government.
3. NSW Labor supports the launch of a health and safety campaign warning about the use, sale and sharing of e-cigarettes in schools



Ask 2 – Reduce children’s exposure to unhealthy food and beverage advertising by banning it on NSW government owned or controlled assets, starting with public transport.

Obesity affects nearly 25% of Australian children and adolescents and is associated with poorer health and wellbeing and higher health-care costs.

Labor understands that exposure to food marketing influences children’s decisions about food, as does brand awareness. We want children to develop healthy food habits as those habits and choices will have a direct impact on their health outcomes.

A Minns Labor Government will review the arrangements that are in place in relation to food advertising, with a view to achieving better health outcomes for NSW.

Ask 3 – Help people control their gambling by implementing a universal pre-commitment cashless card system with upper limits per day, month and year. Reforms must include a one button self-exclusion; prohibitions on inducements, advertising and marketing; and penalties for regulation and legislation breaches.

We all agree we want to tackle problem gambling and we want less pokies in NSW.

This is now a debate about the best way to do that.

We believe we have the better plan. Based on evidence.

NSW Labor has proposed a comprehensive policy response to the issue of gaming reform:

- Expanded Mandatory Cashless Gaming Trial.
- Introduce cash input limits.
- A ban on all external gaming related signage.
- A reduction of the amount of poker machines in New South Wales over time.
- Harm minimisation programs through a \$100 million fund.
- The introduction of Responsible Gaming Officers (RGO) in venues.
- Introduction of third party exclusion and mandatory facial recognition to enhance self-exclusion.

NSW Labor supports the reduction in gaming machines.

A Minns Labor Government will introduce measures combining long-term and short-term changes that aim to try to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling and put a stop to money laundering and criminal activity. At the same time, we have tried to ensure the industry and sector can smoothly transition to protect the 127,000 people who are employed in pubs and clubs across the state.

The trial which will begin on 1 July 2023 will include at least 500 machines, with a mix of pubs and clubs across metro areas of highest use, other metro areas, and regional areas. It will look at different cashless technologies, what infrastructure

investments are required, including cost, the impact on employment and industry and the impacts on problem gambling, and options to further reduce problem gambling.

The trial will be overseen by an independent panel, made up of representatives from law enforcement, gambling and health experts and academics, and industry. The panel will deliver their report and findings of the trial to Cabinet, with findings and recommendations to be made public. The panel will be tasked with providing a roadmap to implementation of gaming reform across New South Wales

From 1 July 2023, Labor will reduce cash feed-in limits to \$500 per machine for all new poker machines – a tenfold reduction from the current limit of \$5000. This will also be enforced for newer machines where the changes can be made rapidly, and Labor will then work to reduce feed-in limits in existing older machines where possible.

This is an important interim step while the trial is underway and goes directly to the Crime Commission report which found that New South Wales has the highest load up limits in the country, which represents a clear money laundering vulnerability.

Under Labor, all external signage (e.g. “VIP Lounge”) promoting gaming machines around pubs and clubs will be banned.

Labor will reduce the overall number of poker machines in New South Wales. Currently any pub or club seeking to increase their machines must have room within their existing threshold, and then must get those machines from other pubs or clubs. When there is a trade, some entitlements are forfeited – currently this usually happens at a rate of one machine forfeited for every three traded. Labor will make this one for every two – accelerating the removal of poker machines from the system.

As the number of machine entitlements are removed from circulation – every year the cap will be reset at the new, lower number of machine entitlements.

A Labor Government will introduce a Responsible Gaming Officer for venues with more than 20 poker machines.

There is currently a requirement for those in registered clubs and hotels to have completed a Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) course.

The role would be enshrined in law to ensure that the RGO could not be subject to adverse action by the employer, when acting in the course of their duty, such as banning a patron. This will bring New South Wales in line with a similar scheme that exists in Victoria.

Ask 4 – Reduce climate-related harms on public health by banning new coal and gas mines, including expansions.

Hold a NSW focused Health and Climate Summit to determine actions that protect health and safety across workplaces, neighbourhoods and communities.

NSW Labor introduced a bill to legislate the state's emissions reduction targets last year, and a Minns Labor Government will re-introduce the legislation this year as a matter of priority.

We will legislate to guarantee net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and an interim target of a 50% reduction by 2030.

Labor's bill reflects the gravity and urgency of the climate crisis; opportunities for job creation and economic diversification in new high growth sectors such as renewable energy; the need to protect jobs and communities; and the importance of appropriate action to ensure intergenerational equity for households, business, workers, communities, and rural and regional NSW

Business and industry deserve certainty.

Labor's bill will also establish a Net Zero Commission who would develop the plan to net zero by 2050, monitor and review the plan and trajectory, including impacts on jobs and industry, as well as energy prices. The Commission would update the plan every five years.

The Commission would have the power to make recommendations to the government of the day on how to more effectively meet our targets; supporting diversification of local economies, job creation and job protection; ensuring mining communities receive a fair share from royalties; and targets for the government's own energy use.

A Minns Labor Government will create the NSW Energy Security Corporation, a state-owned body that will accelerate investment in renewable energy assets. It will be seeded with a \$1 billion investment – from the existing Restart NSW fund.

The role of the NSW Energy Security Corporation will be to partner with industry on projects that provide affordable, accessible and reliable energy to NSW.

This will involve facilitating medium to long duration renewable storage solutions like pumped hydro, as well as any other commercially viable technologies to provide grid stability.

And to deliver community batteries to maximise the benefits for households of rooftop solar.

Ask 5 – Expand and diversify the public health workforce to enhance the population health prevention efforts and ensure the health needs of marginalised communities are met.

Develop a strategy to comprehensively embed prevention across primary, secondary and tertiary care to enhance patient level care.

Prevention and minimisation of the burden of disease in the community saves Governments and the economy very significant costs in the long term.

According to the Productivity Commission, on average, Australians live more than 13% of their lives in ill health. These years in ill health represent loss of personal income/productivity in working life years and the obvious cost of treatment and provision of the necessary care.

Governments will always need to expend money on health, however there is a choice that exists as to only spending once someone has become very ill as opposed to spending to avoid them becoming very ill.

There has certainly been a lack of focus on prevention, that is evident by the high rates of obesity, chronic illness, diabetes, the need for some elective surgeries.

I am committed to ensuring a Minns Labor Government does preventative health better.

Yours sincerely



Ryan Park MP
Member for Keira
Shadow Minister for Health
Shadow Minister for Mental Health
Shadow Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast