

FREECHOICE DEVONPORT

Fourways Tattslotto 150c William Street DEVONPORT TAS 7310

‘Tasmanian Smoke Free Generation submission’

As a franchisee of Freechoice Australia operating from the above address, we strongly oppose the introduction of the above bill. We are a family based company that has been running the current business for in excess of 22 years. The impact of this proposed bill will have catastrophic effects on my business, family & staff as stated below.

- This will effect not only the employment of my staff but also my family and children. A very high portion of our business turnover is tobacco sales.
- Adults that were born after the year 2000 will still continue to smoke. They will be buying from the internet, interstate or off of the ‘black market’. Tobacco is still a legal product.
- The proposed bill will also open a huge entry for the ‘Black Market’ gangs to take our sales. We as retailers face massive excise & plain packaging legislation, which is causing the ‘Black Market’ to be getting bigger every day.
- The chance for me to pass my business onto my children will be **NON-EXISTANT**. It is already very hard to keep young adults in Tasmania for employment opportunities. As it is, they are leaving in droves. This bill will only aggravate this issue.
- As a part of Australia, how can it possibly work to only have this law in Tasmania? Only a few hundred kilometres away somebody of the same age can ‘legally’ walk into a store and purchase tobacco products. How can you ‘police’ this law successfully?

The above proposed bill is totally absurd & unworkable. We currently have some of the harshest tobacco control in the world here in Tasmania. This is just kicking small business while we are down, as well as the young adults of the state that don’t get to make their own choices once they reach legal age.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Lockwood