



*At Swansea Since 1868*

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FRONT  
LINE

The proposal to create a Tobacco-Free Generation is a good one.

The proposal to enforce and finance this by creating even more regulation, red tape, costs and penalties on small retailers and their employees in Tasmania is most certainly NOT. It simply reflects the standard Government approach to a problem they don't know how to fix: "Just Tax It"

While any person of any age even as low as pre-primary school can openly stand around the streets consuming tobacco products, and openly walk along the footpaths blowing smoke into the face of the Public, Health workers and Police, all without any question of fear of retribution, then it is totally unfair to the staff, particularly junior staff, of a retail store to have to make a subjective judgment on the age of a person requesting to buy tobacco products, when they have earlier witnessed that same person openly consuming the product in public. Inevitably confrontations, even criminal activities would occur, further increasing workplace stress and probably even physical assault.

As a first step, consumers, particularly under-age consumers must be made to take some responsibility for their own actions.

A much more sensible approach is to declare all tobacco products a prescription drug and to require all intending users to obtain an authority to purchase from a registered Medical Practitioner. At least this would provide the opportunity for professional education and assistance to quit the habit.

Tasmania, as a stand-alone State, has no possibility of enforcing any control legislation. In this modern age, the product would simply be imported from another State or Territory, either directly by the consumer or indirectly via the existing and expanding black market economy. Any attempt to control this importation would require an amendment to the Federal Constitution. Therefore any control measures will need to be enacted at a Federal level.

While personally we would prefer not to sell Tobacco products at all, the fact remains that nationally this is, and will for the foreseeable future, remains a legal product which is in demand by a (fortunately) reducing section of the community. Loss of profits by small business arising from the handing over the supply chain of Tobacco to big business and interstate mail/internet order suppliers is a very minor issue compared with the associated loss of sales of non related products which would inevitably follow. All this leading to reduced employment and even business survival within the small business sector.

Yours sincerely,

Morris' Store

A. J. Morris.