

Jill Mann

From: Martin & Genevieve Eaton <cygnew@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2015 9:32 AM
To: tfg
Subject: Proposed Tobacco Legislation

We are writing in regard to the proposed changes to Tasmanian Tobacco Legislation presented by Ivan Dean.

We have owned and operated the Cygnet Newsagency for almost 30 years. We have abided by all regulations during that period and take pride in the fact that, together with our staff, we are very conscientious in upholding all tobacco licensing criteria. The proposed changes to the tobacco licensing laws will have a huge impact on our business. Tobacco and cigarette sales are a significant part of our business and a substantial reduction in turnover would have a damaging impact on our business.

We are appalled at the further checks we will need to carry out in order to sell cigarettes under these proposed new laws. Not only will it cost us time in our business but it also puts our staff at the frontline of angry customers when they are denied supply of tobacco products. We have a junior female employee and we are concerned at the angst she may face with disgruntled customers.

Of a great concern to us is that the legal smoking age will remain at over 18 years of age whilst the proposed tobacco legislation will make it illegal to supply to these people who are already 18. A person is old enough to smoke by law but another law says they can't purchase the product they are old enough to use!! So next step they will purchase online from interstate, thus denying businesses like ours in Tasmania of sales. Another issue is that these proposed changes may boost demand on the illicit market and businesses could face further losses due to increasing burglaries.

To sum up our disillusionment is the following scenario under the proposed tobacco legislation:-

- Customer over 18 born after 2000 is denied cigarettes by retailer in Tasmania
- Legally allowed to smoke same product
- Goes online and purchases said product legally from interstate retailer
- Proceeds to legally smoke (in Tasmania) same tobacco purchased legally interstate
- Who loses??? Tasmanian retailers and business!!!

Not forgetting that a significant reduction in tobacco sales for some businesses will also result in a downturn in employment.

Smoking is a choice once you are 18 years of age as is the consumption of alcohol. We have read that Mr Dean has said that the aim of the Bill was not to penalise the young smoker but to clamp down on the supply side. This is clearly not the case as the disadvantaged smoker will buy online from interstate therefore the supply will remain unchanged.

We urge you to vote against this outlandish proposal.

Regards
 Martin and Genevieve Eaton
 Cygnet Newsagency