

No. 46

Jill Mann

From: Stuart Palmer <southeastfirearms3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2015 3:05 PM
To: tfg
Cc: Robert Armstrong; craig.farell@parliament.tas.gov.au; contact@ruthforrest.com.au; Leonie Hiscutt; Tony.Mulder; Rob Valentine
Subject: Proposed Changes to Sale of Tobacco for those born after 2000

Dear Legislative Council Members,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed Public Health Amendment Bill 2014.

The proposal as we understand is to make it illegal to sell tobacco products to those born after the year 2000.

Whilst this amendment is noble in its cause it is however doomed to fail and potentially cause more problems than it will fix.

One of our concerns would be the establishment of a black-market where people without tobacco licences will be selling to those born not only after 2000 but younger persons as well. As it stands at the moment tobacco products and accessories are controlled by licenced operators and are stringent in the checking of ID and age.

The result of this scenario will create not only loss of income for our business but possible loss of employment for some staff. I would imagine that our business would not be the only one affected in such a manner.

How does Mr Ivan Dean and other committee members plan to address the issue of not only interstate but international tourists born after 2000 buying cigarettes whilst holidaying in Tasmania, when you consider we trying to cultivate more tourism not less, especially when you consider that the Asian market has a very high percentage of smoking population? Will they be excluded to or will they be also subjected to these proposed amendments?

If this legislation change is passed one has to ask what other types of legislation will or can be changed, will we see a restriction in sales of alcohol down the road, or fast food, soft drinks etc. Will we have a "Demolition Man" type of scenario where "It's bad for you therefore it is illegal", there is a real chance that this type of amendment can and will be used as a precedent to place further personal restrictions on law abiding citizens.

Perhaps a better approach would be to create a mandatory educational program throughout years 7 to 12 on the dangers of smoking for e.g. Health effects to the actual smoker, danger of second hand smoke, financial burden etc.

Yours Sincerely

Stuart Palmer
Owner/Operator
TSG Sorell