

Jill Mann

From: Cignall Hobart <hobart@cignall.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2015 3:29 PM
To: tfg
Subject: Re Smoke Free Tasmania proposed legislation

Hello

I am writing to voice my concerns with the proposed legislation to ban anyone born from the 1st of January 2000 from ever being able to exercise there freedom of choice and buy a tobacco product. The fact that the legislation is attempting to make a decision for an adult of legal age to drink alcohol , drive a car and vote is not my major concern. They are listed below

1. Legislation enforcement

Expecting retailers that are selling a legal product to ask every consumer for identification is an impost that would not only impact on the cost of business but lead I am sure to consumer backlash for the retailers that enforce the rules. In reality a set of twins born around midnight could see one of the siblings able to purchase a legal product and the other sibling unable to purchase the same legal product. (Not to worry the sibling considered to be breaking the law can simply get a friend from mainland Australia to post him a carton of tobacco products.)

2. How do we stop people purchasing interstate.

If driving the retail dollar out of Tasmania to interstate retailers is one of the aims of the proposed legislation it gets a big tick. You may be able to take away an adults freedom of choice to purchase a legal product but you cant assume they all never leave the state or correspond with citizens interstate. Still purchasing the product they choose to consume will not be difficult but retaining the retail spend in Tasmania will be. I wonder if Tobacco was still taxed on a state level if this legislation would even be considered.

3. The effect on tourism.

Tasmania is seen as a destination of choice for many tourists from around the world. We must ensure that we put as few barricades as possible against tourists visiting the state. Not being able to purchase and consume the normal products they can in their home state is surely one reason to look else ware for a tourist destination. You may laugh but as we are consistently being told tobacco is an addictive product so not easy to give up as part or all of a relaxing holiday

In closing I would like to ask if this legislation is trying to reduce tobacco consumption why not consider another option. Fully fund and support police to investigate and and prosecute anyone dealing in illegal tobacco products in Australia. People smoking these illegal products are looking for a cheaper product and taking this option away from them may help persuade them to stop tobacco consumption.

Thanks for your consideration
Saad Mohamad
Owner Cignall Hobart