

Dear Mr Dean and the Legislative Council,

I wish to share my concerns with you around the Tobacco Free Generation Bill.

As a retailer, I am selling a legal product to adults who chose to purchase that product. This legislation takes away the option of a perfectly legitimate trade for small businesses like mine.

More legislation and more regulations around tobacco products are hurting Tasmanian small businesses who are already struggling to hold on in the battle with the big supermarket chains.

Legislation such as this will discourage people from buying into small retail businesses, not just because they turnover less revenue than they did, but because of the continual changes to tobacco legislation that cause impositions for store owners.

My other main concern is if this bill passes, then it will slowly reduce the revenue for my business and if or when I decide to sell, the value of the business, which is based on future profits, will be much lower than its current value.

If I can't sell it because no one wants to buy a business that doesn't generate adequate revenue, then I, and the Orford community stand to lose a whole lot more. I'm sure many of the IGA store owners around Tasmania will share my concerns.

I fear that it will be the end for many independent retailers should this bill pass.

Regards,

Gary Taylor - Owner, IGA Everyday Orford