

Jenny Leaman

From: Brad Westcott <bwestcott@murdunnastore.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2015 3:33 PM
To: tfg
Subject: Submission re Smoke Free Generation

I would like to put my views forward on the proposed legislation making it illegal to sell tobacco to anyone born after the year 2000.

In theory it would be nice if this could work but it must be looked at with the broader view and how this is going to be policed.

It is a horrible habit as we all know but it is a legal habit and has been for hundreds of years, I don't believe it is fair on the tobacco retailers in this state for two reasons.

1/ The loss of sales and profits. You might say that is a narrow minded view but until it is brought in Australia wide why should Tasmanian retailers have to suffer.

On the proposal it is stated tourists can bring in their tobacco products with them while they are on holidays. Why don't you get them to bring with them all their groceries, tell them they do not need to buy cloths over here, because they can buy them in their own state. Bring in all your alcohol with them as well and don't support our pubs and clubs. This state is all of a sudden looking to becoming more of a tourist destination, capturing more of the Asian market.

Asians are amongst the biggest cigarette users in the world and you are talking about denying them the opportunity to purchase tobacco products whilst they are in this state.

If I were still a smoker I simply would not come here.

As I said before it is a horrible habit but we need to be clear, unpleasant as it is and we say money does not mean everything, it is a big part of the economy.

My sales in tobacco products are on the decline now so the trend is going the right way as far how many people are smoking, yet my license to sell tobacco products increases every year.

Western Australia keep bleating about the GST revenue Tassie gets with little input into the revenue basket and how we should be doing more to help ourselves. My view on that is WA happens to be the state with all the minerals which actually belong to Australia as a whole

so they should be sharing the extra revenue they derive from being a mineral rich state.

Tasmania should be doing every little thing it can to get every single person they can to come for a visit, not discouraging them by not allowing them to buy their cigarettes while they are here.

2/ You will be putting the onus on the shopkeeper to police this so we will be forced to guess how old a lot more people are, and ask for ID when you have a shop full of other people who are waiting to be served.

It is hard enough as it is now trying to determine the age of people when the legal age is eighteen, not 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 etc

I am a retailer who used to smoke and thankfully was able to kick the habit 15 years, and fully understand the health benefits I have derived from quitting not to mention the economic benefits my family and I have enjoyed. This issue need to be looked at from all angles.

Regards

Brad Westcott

Murdunna Store