

[REDACTED]

From: Ken Gough [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 10:37 AM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures (Bill 2023)

Categories: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I write to you with concern, over what I and many others, would consider to be an unreasonable potential ban, upon the currently lawful and legitimate trade in WW2 Militaria antiques and items, including German artefacts, specifically.

Perhaps a few lines to introduce myself, may be helpful in the context of this email. I have a bachelor's degree in commerce, teaching qualifications for the Piano (AMusA), and consider myself to be a well-educated, law abiding, tax paying, contributor to Australian Society. I grew up in Caulfield, attended Caulfield Grammar, and if you know the area, perhaps not surprisingly, I have a great many close Jewish friends.

I also happen to (legally) collect genuine Militaria items, from various periods in history, theatres of conflict, and yes, that does include pieces from WW2 Germany. This does not for one moment mean that I don't fully appreciate the horrific events that took place, and find them to be abhorrent, as does every other legitimate collector I know. I also feel very strongly that this is a stain on human history, which must not be forgotten, and in fact we must do everything we can to ensure this period is not brushed under the carpet, if for no other reason than to prevent it from happening again. My interest in Militaria began many years ago, due to my great grandfather having fought for Australia in Gallipoli. As a child, I was given his pocket compass which he used in the trenches on the front line, and while the item has no great monetary value, is one of my most prized possessions to this day. This does not mean I hold any dislike towards Turkish people, or any other race my great grandfather happened to be fighting against for our country. Likewise, the fact that I have I have German WW2 items in my collection, has no bearing on anything, other than they happen to form part of my collection.

I appreciate there is a very small group of morons, purporting to be 'Neo Nazis'. I don't believe the collecting and sale of genuine historical items can be linked to these degenerates in any way. Any genuine item of historical note will generally cost thousands of dollars, and I don't believe anyone stupid enough to be associating with these despicable groups, would be in a financial position to purchase anything authentic.

With that in mind, I fully support the ban on selling replica items, T shirts, banners, and anything else that could be easily accessible, and used to promote hateful ideology. I also fully support the ban on public displays of items, that many groups would quite rightly find extremely hurtful and offensive.

There does however need to be a means, whereby genuine collectors, are able to buy and sell items from each other, hence the need for authorized dealers.

Owning and purchasing certain firearms, requires a special 'Collectors License', and I wholeheartedly agree that those measure should be in place. I respectfully suggest that a similar model for collecting of

legitimate militaria historical items should be considered, rather than a blanket ban on German WW2 items specifically, which to be honest I find quite preposterous.

Kind regards,
Ken