

To the PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY.

RE: Review of the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures) Bill 2023

Please with respect I ask you to accept my written submission re my opposition to the Bill introduced to ban the sale of ww2 German Nazi military items.

I am a small business dealing in Military Artefacts & I also run two events per year where dealers pay us to attend our events, we charge a small \$10 admission fee for Adult members of the public to come & look at Historic displays of Military items, people buy sell & trade at our events. Children under the age of 15 are given free admission, It's a great family day out where the public get to see some extremely rare, interesting & beautiful items on display.

This ban if introduced will practically halve my business, I will lose a lot of money from vendors, people through the door & online sales, it has the potential to completely ruin my business. At our events, every dealer covers any swastika & SS marked items & we have a warning sign out front advising people there is Third Reich militaria on display & to please rethink entry /attending if they may be offended by it . To date NOT ONE person that I am aware of has ever complained to me nor my wife or any dealers/collectors about Third Reich militaria being present & I have done these events since 2011 & ran as many as 4 per year.

Myself nor any of my clients are neo Nazis, & I am very offended that anyone who owns or sells such items is a Nazi or has far right extremist views. None of us hold any far right extremist views. We are dealers & collectors who purchase the items for historical reasons, workmanship & most importantly investment purposes. no other reason. No antisemitic views, People from many faiths actually deal in ww2 Third Reich militaria in Australia & across the world.

This bill if passed will affect all types of German Militaria, bayonets & firearms as most may have a tiny swastika or waffen amp marking somewhere on it, as well as coins, bank notes, stamps, Modelling , reenactors, Movie hire firms, books, etc, there are possibly many others I have left out, The dollar value of ww2 German militaria within Australia would equate to millions & millions of dollars.

I applaud & would back any laws 100% that will stop the minority right wing groups , Neo Nazi rallies, people wearing FAKE arm bands, T-shirts with offensive logos & flying a Nazi flag in public, By all means punish them to the full extent of the law, sadly These types of people will not be affected in any way shape or form by banning Genuine military collectables, They will not change their ideology one iota, anyone who thinks this bill will hurt or stop the Neo Nazi radicals in any way is not using a common sense approach.

The bill will only hurt Dealers & every day mum & dad collectors who have invested a hell of a lot of money to accumulate their collections. They all collect for pleasure & have a nest egg for their retirement or a financial asset for their families, The right wing groups possible don't even own genuine military artefacts. As an Australian we have the basic right to collect historic items that do or don't require a licence & if the government deem a once legal item illegal, they should be made to pay compensation especially when it affects small business & every day Australian collectors.

The items are an important part of History which should NEVER be forgotten & should never be hidden away from view.

If this Bill is passed, the Australian Government MUST at a very minimum be made to do a buy back from all Collectors & dealers, It will still hurt my business a hell of a lot but if I am paid for my existing stock it will soften the blow, If I can't sell /swap my stock, then it is worthless, I have legally paid a lot of money for it & I should be compensated for it by the Government if the Government decide my stock is now illegal.

I could write 1000 more lines on why I believe this Bill is not right & I personally believe it's a massive over reach of power by the Government.

I Thank the committee for considering my submission.

Regards

Danny Watson