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25 November 2020

Mr Patrick Hodder
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Tobacco Harm Reduction
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: tobacoharmreduction.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Hodder,

Response to Questions on Notice – Inquiry into Tobacco Harm Reduction

In response to your correspondence of 19 November 2020, please find following answers to Senator Sheldon's Questions on Notice.

Yours sincerely,

Dominique Lamb
Chief Executive Officer



QoN 01

Are you aware of Australia's obligations under Article 5.3 of World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control "in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law"?

The NRA is a Union of Employers. Our obligation is to the many thousands of small business owners across the nation who are prevented from providing a product to their customers that foreign retailers are permitted to sell to Australians.

We also welcome the fact that Members of Parliament from many parties, including opposition parties, have met with us in relation to this issue.

QoN 02

Have you or your organisation received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from any parties involved in the production, distribution or sale of tobacco, nicotine or vaping products? Please provide details of that support, including:

- a. the nature of that support;
- b. the amount or value provided;
- c. the name of the entity or person providing it; and
- d. any other related information.

The NRA represents businesses that retail and wholesale nicotine containing products. Clearly the organisation receives "financial or non-financial, direct or indirect" support from many thousands of businesses and organisations "involved in the production, distribution or sale of tobacco, nicotine or vaping products". Given the number of members likely to be involved in these activities, and considering the NRA does not monitor members' business transactions, it would be impossible for us to provide the details being sought.

The NRA's fully audited financial statements are available online at the Registered Organisations Commission <https://www.roc.gov.au/find-a-registered-organisation/nra>



QoN 03

Have you or your organisation, received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from associated entities of tobacco companies? If yes, please provide details of that support, including:

- a. the nature of that support;
- b. the amount or value provided;
- c. the name of the entity or person providing it; and
- d. any other related information.

It is the NRA's policy to retain the strictest confidences around all our memberships and commercial partnerships. We simply do not confirm or deny any arrangements that – should they exist – would be considered commercial-in-confidence. The statement should not be construed as confirming any such arrangement – merely a statement of our long-standing policy.

QoN 04

Have you received any assistance, or liaised or consulted with, any other person or organisation in the preparation of your evidence to this inquiry?

If yes, please provide the details of any persons and/or organisation that assisted, or with whom you liaised or consulted, in the preparation of your evidence to this inquiry, including:

- a. the name of the persons or organisation;
- b. the ABN or CAN, if applicable; and
- c. any other related information.

The NRA draws on the use of professional staff to develop submissions. Those staff no doubt draw on a wide variety of sources – too numerous to identify comprehensively – including many members of the Australian Parliament, from many parties.



QoN 05

Did you make inquiries as to whether the persons/organisations you consulted or liaised with receive any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from parties involved in the production, distribution or sale of tobacco, nicotine or vaping products?

If yes, please provide the details of those inquiries, including:

- a. what assurances were sought;
- b. dates of those inquiries; and
- c. whether they were made in written form or orally.

No.

QoN 06

Have you, or any organisation with which you are associated, received any support, whether financial or non-financial, direct or indirect, from the following organisations, or persons associated with, the following organisations:

- a. The Institute for Public Affairs;
- b. Centre for Independent Studies;
- c. The Sydney Institute;
- d. Australian Taxpayers Alliance;
- e. Australian Institute For Progress;
- f. Mannkal Economic Education Foundation;
- g. Legalise Vaping Australia; and
- h. any ATLAS network member organisation.

It is the NRA's policy to retain the strictest confidences around all our memberships and commercial partnerships. We simply do not confirm or deny any arrangements that – should they exist – would be considered commercial-in-confidence. The statement should not be construed as confirming any such arrangement – merely a statement of our long-standing policy.



QoN 07

Please provide the details of support given by the organisations listed in question 4, including:

- a. name of the organisation;
- b. nature of the support;
- c. amount or value provided; and
- d. any other related information.

Please refer to our response to QoN 06.

QoN 08

Have you consulted, or had any contact with the groups or persons associated with groups listed in question 4, regarding your submission to this inquiry, or regarding your policy on vaping, tobacco, nicotine or any related products?

If yes, please provide the details of the organisations listed in question 4 with which you had contact, including:

- a. name of the organisation; and
- b. what the nature of the contact was.

Question 4 does not list any organisations. If this question is intended to refer to QoN 06, the answer is no.