

Rebecca Plummer
Manager
CTC Tanilba Bay
Shop 4/67 Beatty Boulevard
27/04/17

Committee Secretary
Red Tape Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chairman

Subject: Red Tape Committee – The effect of red tape on tobacco retail

I write to make a submission to the Red Tape Committee on the effect of red tape on tobacco retail.

The ever increasing tax on tobacco products is becoming a blatant money grab. Whilst I can appreciate the concern for people's health, the hypocrisy that tobacco related products are readily available for purchase inside hospitals and the reality that without cigarette sales there would be an approximate 6 billion dollar hole in the Federal budget is not lost on me and I am extremely concerned that the effects of continuing to increase these taxes will and is already leading to disastrous consequences.

The impact is becoming ever more present in our industry as businesses are being forced to reduce trading hours and reduce margins which is leading to fewer hours for staff and less employment opportunities as overheads increase and profits go down.

The steady rise of consumers turning to the black market to seek out more economic ways to obtain their tobacco is also starting to have an impact as "Chop Chop" and overseas cigarettes are flooding the country.

The concern, especially for the older generations of smokers, is that essential items and services such as food and bills will become regarded as "non-essential".

The issue of increased crime to obtain tobacco products due to their high prices is also of concern.

Regards,

Rebecca Plummer