

Submission No: 104

RECEIVED  
28 JUN 2004

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21<sup>st</sup> June 2004

The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP  
Chair  
House of Representatives Standing  
Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bishop,

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) has some concerns about the *Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment (Anti-avoidance and other Measures) Bill 2004* (the Bill).

The ARA recognises that there have been some high income professionals who have deliberately set out to avoid their obligations using the bankruptcy laws and that this needs to be addressed. However, the Bill as currently drafted is likely to have adverse effects beyond the issue it is stated as seeking to address.

Only one third of retailers operate in a company structure and therefore the Bill as proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the majority of retail businesses in Australia.

The ARA is supportive of the position put forward by the Australian Medical Association on the Bill.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Stan Moore  
Chief Executive Officer