



Health and Ageing Committee to investigate Plain Packaging Legislation

On 7 July 2011 the House of Representatives Selection Committee referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing two Bills for inquiry as follows:

Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill 2011

This Bill will make it an offence to sell, supply, purchase, package or manufacture tobacco products or packaging for retail sale, that are not compliant with plain packaging requirements. These offences apply to manufacturers, packagers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers of tobacco products in Australia who fail to comply with the plain packaging requirements.

Trade Marks Amendment (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Bill 2011

The Bill is being introduced so, if necessary, the government can quickly remedy any unintended interaction between the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011 (the Plain Packaging Act) and the Trade Marks Act 1995 (the Trade Marks Act). The objective of any such exercise of power under the Bill will be to ensure that applicants for trade mark registration and registered owners of trade marks are not disadvantaged by the practical operation of the Plain Packaging Act.

The Committee calls on interested parties to make submissions to the Inquiry. Further information in relation to the Committee's inquiry, including Terms of Reference and details on how to lodge submissions are now available on the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/reports.htm>

Submissions close on 22 July 2011

For media comment, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Mr Steve Georganas by phone on (08) 8376 9000.

For all other enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/haa.