

Sent: Friday, 15 July 2011 1:20 PM
To: Committee, HAA (REPS)
Subject: Sub 013: RE PLAIN PACKAGING

Submission No. 13 (Plain Packaging Bill) A.O.C. Date: 19/07/2011

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND AGEING

RE PROPOSAL FOR PLAIN PACKAGING FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

I am a small retailer (Edens Landing News) in Queensland. Tobacco is one of our core products we sell and the plan to have them in Plain Packaging is not going to deter, prevent one person from using the product.

It has not worked anywhere in the world.
If the product is not on display what purpose does it serve other than to frustrate staff and customers with time delay while trying to determine which product is required.

Plain packaging will increase counterfeiting and make it easier to counterfeit

It is a gross invasion of peoples rights to be forced to plain packaging. Users of the products are 18 or older therefore considered adult, therefore they know the consequences of smoking to their health and environment, why should they have their choices of using a totally legal product seriously reduced.

If the Government is fair dinkum about stopping smoking why don't they make it illegal - that won't happen because there is far too much money via taxes.

Money would be better spent on continuing education and ensuring retailers and their staff are knowledgeable about the product and laws regarding the sale of the product. My staff are regularly updated about the laws and procedures to ensure we aren't selling to minors, they request identification if there is any doubt to ensure we aren't selling to minors.

It is my opinion and that of many of my customers who I have discussed this topic with, that the Government is wanting to look as tho they are being tough on smokers and at the same time knowing they are raking in billions of dollars in tax from the sale of tobacco, even tho they are missing out on millions of dollars from illegal sales. It is not about the user as protecting their taxes.

I would like to remind the Government that smokers are voters and all recent efforts eg serious price rises, graphic pictures on packaging all have failed to stop people smoking and plain packaging won't either. Education at an early age is the best way forward to prevent the adults of tomorrow from becoming users of tobacco products or make the products totally illegal to all.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Nunn
Edens Landing News