
Committee Secretary
House Standing Committee on Health and Ageing
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

As a small retailer, I have serious concerns about the Federal Government's Tobacco Plain Packaging Bills.

The Federal Government has provided no real evidence that plain packaging will help smokers quit or prevent people from taking up smoking. In fact the Federal Health Minister admitted there is no proof plain packaging will cut smoking rates because no government in the world has done it before.

As a small retailer, I can tell you that in my opinion plain packaging is not going to work and I am appalled with the Federal Government's determination to proceed with this 'experimental' policy.

The proposed plain packaging design outlined by the Minister for Health in her introduction of the Bills and in the draft Regulations will have negative consequences for my business. Now that cigarettes are not on display in most states and territories, plain packaging does not make sense.

I believe that plain packaging will create negative consequences for my business by:

- Impeding my ability to serve my customers quickly, causing unnecessary confusion for my retail staff
- Causing delays in service time and inconvenience for my customers;
- Driving my customers away to the large supermarket chains;
- Making managing stock more needlessly difficult and time consuming which is lost time I cannot afford; and
- Further increasing the trade in illicit tobacco as plain packets will be easier to counterfeit, increasing the risk of teenagers getting hold of cheap, illegal cigarettes.

I strongly believe that what has been proposed will also make it easier for criminals to create cheap counterfeit cigarettes that will take legitimate sales away from my business.

I am strongly opposed to the introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products and I urge the Federal Government and this Committee to listen to the thousands of retailers from across Australia who oppose this ill-thought-out policy by choosing not to implement plain packaging for tobacco products.

Sincerely,