

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023

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I'm so glad the QLD Government is taking steps toward the illicit trade that is making it harder and harder for the small retailers in QLD.

It is a great idea to bring in the licensing to put a stop to the illicit operators for applying for licenses. I'm well aware that these people are very smart and will have other people applying for licenses for them. What are we all meant to do in the meantime while we wait for the licensing to come into effect. which is 15 months away.

How are the health department going to act on these laws ie: manpower to enforce the new laws. Coloured packs of cigarettes are being sold at present which im sure they will take steps to package these in plain packaging to make them look like they are legit. Will the health department have trained inspectors? These illicit stores are very easy to pick as they have plain signage and don't come under the major banner ie: signal, TSG Smokemart.

When these new laws are passed are these inspectors going to be visiting these types of stores as they are not at the present.

How will these stores be stopped as at the minute they might be raided and within hours they reopen doing the same thing. time and time again.

Will these new laws mean that the police can confiscate any amount of chop chop. As I'm led to believe, if the police raid them and they have under 20kg they can not confiscate their products as it stands.

Most of these stores are run by organized crime and they go around intimidating legitimate tobacconists. Are these health officers going to be trained to enter these types of stores and be safe and not be intimidated. So they can shut these stores for good.

Vaping has now hit the young people in the country and the young kids are able to purchase vapes online and from illicit shops. keeping in mind that these illicit shops are popping up near schools and right next to police stations. Cairns has 4 illicit shops that I'm aware of and 1 shop that is right across the road from a police station.

So ending this submission are these laws going to be acted on straight when they are passed in parliament. These things I have addressed in this submission are very concerning and need to be addressed ASAP.

Regards
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