

## INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Good morning,

There was an interesting read the other day online about how 5 illegal tobacconists moved into Lithgow and the long-standing legitimate tobacconist had to shut down.

I'm sure that NSW Health are quite proud of this. I'm sure they congratulate each other on a job well done, getting closer to the target of 5% smoking rate.

I imagine that the legitimate tobacconist was left wondering how this happened since before NSW Health allowed the sale of coloured packets of cigarettes, brown bags full of chop chop, vapes and sales to underage kids, the legitimate tobacconist would have been shut down immediately for simply having a cupboard that didn't self close.

Before NSW Health allowed the sale of illicit tobacco by criminals, the legitimate tobacconist would have been shut down for writing the word 'tobacco' twice in the shop. That was such a serious offence that a legitimate tobacconist would have had its RIN revoked, leaving the business unable to sell tobacco products.

Much like we were threatened with major fines for having a word on our price board that wasn't in a compliant font size, by \_\_\_\_\_, our local tobacco compliance officer, while the illegal tobacconist around the corner was freely selling chop chop in unmarked bags, with hand written prices on a cardboard next to sticky taped coloured packets of cigarettes.

Over the past 3+ years NSW Health have continued to make excuses for allowing the sale of illicit tobacco while continuing to threaten us every chance they get.

It couldn't be more obvious that NSW Health are supportive of the sale of illicit tobacco, after more than 3 years of complete inaction and excuse after excuse made.

I firmly believe that NSW Health will give all the illegal tobacconists licences under the new scheme, and just like in QLD that will do absolutely nothing to stop the sale of illicit tobacco.

I firmly believe that NSW Health will not use the shut down powers, if passed, to shut down more than a couple of illegal tobacconists. I can't see how 20 officers that don't like to travel away from Sydney can shut down over 20,000 illegal tobacconists.

If only NSW Health had bothered to do their job 3 years ago, and all levels of government could curb their insatiable greed for tobacco tax excise, all the murders, firebombings and extreme crime that has been allowed to play out on our streets could have been prevented.

Regards