

**Submission  
No 118**

## **INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE**

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I fully support anyone who is attempting to bring common sense back into how tobacco is taxed in Australia. I no longer smoke myself (I was a cigar smoker for many years) I now use nasal Snuff tobacco (more about that later). This insanely high tobacco taxes imposed on tobacco in Australia has produced the terrible results we now see with illegal, much cheaper cigarettes in brightly coloured packets being sold everywhere.

We all know the problem; the taxes imposed upon tobacco is far, far too high in Australia. Even if the taxes were halved, they would still be extremely high, but halving the taxes would destroy the illegal cigarette market overnight! The government could keep their other restrictions, but the gigantic taxes have created a massive problem with illegal cigarettes flooding into the country.

Returning to my use of nasal Snuff. I first bought Snuff (a powdered form of tobacco that is sniffed into the nose) way back in 1983 from a tobacconist in Sydney. In 1991 the Australian government, for whatever bizarre reason, banned snuff from sale in Australia, however one is permitted to buy it for personal use from overseas (incurring the massive tobacco tax in Australia). This product has no second-hand smoke and is known to be far, far less damaging to health than smoking. I also strongly recommend the ban on Nasal Snuff be lifted.

In closing, the extremely high taxes place upon tobacco in Australia, has directly caused the market to be flooded with cheap illegal cigarettes. This illegal market would be destroyed quickly, once the extreme levels of tobacco taxes in Australia were greatly reduced.

Kindest regards

David Byers