The Commonwealth's treaty-making process Submission 12

Hello Everybody -

I am writing to share my concerns over the secrecy with which such treaty-negotiations are made - the TPP is an excellent example - despite the fact that leaked documents from the US have revealed that countries negotiating for this agreement want to:

- Undermine our PBS, making medicines more expensive;
- Overturn our protections against genetically modified crops and food;
- Weaken Australia's support for local content and TV and radio;
- Give multinational corporations the right to sue governments, for example to stop good laws like plain packaging of cigarettes; and
- Water down labour rights and environmental standards

No Australian government should negotiate in favour of multi-national corporations over the Australian people - corporate welfare needs to stop, NOW!

Australian government negotiations regardless of the treaty -should always be transparent and made public as they proceed through the negotiation process.

Australia is a democracy - government 'for the people etc' - All Australian governments and political parties should hold to that.

Judy Smith