

Justin Jefferson

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Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into Personal Choice and Community Impacts

Dear Chairman

I make the following submission.

As a general principle, the highest individual and social values are realised when people are free, subject only to the equal right of other persons to be free of aggression or fraud against person or property.

Laws intended to force, threaten and punish people into complying with other people's opinions 'for their own good' have no place in the society of a free people and are not a valid function of government. They are an abuse of power.

Therefore the Committee should recommend a systematic process for the identification and repeal of all such laws.

The Commonwealth should also encourage or require a similar process in the States.

It is not a valid argument against personal freedom that it may adversely affect the public treasury. An example is bicycle helmet laws. The argument is invariably that the costs of injury are a financial burden on the government. However this is an argument against government socialising risks and costs, not in favour of restricting personal liberty. Furthermore the apologists for this argument never follow it consistently – (why not ban dangerous books?) – and therefore they always contradict themselves.

The argument from the state treasury proves too much and if admitted, would allow the elimination of virtually any and every personal freedom. The solution to the supposed problem is more freedom, not less.

Yours faithfully

Justin Jefferson