

Senate Standing Committees on Economics

PO Box 6100

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry: the Personal choice and community impacts

19/07/2015

To whom it may concern

A major goal in my life has always been one of articulateness and the pursuit of intelligence. Never have I felt less like expressing myself eloquently or politely than on the issue of bicycle helmets. Perhaps than I can rather be succinct?

I have a 10 year old daughter that I primarily care for with severe brain damage. I understand first hand what that is all about *and* the tragic nightmare it entails!!

I think helmets are a good idea. I would even choose to wear one on many occasions.

Alas who is Canberra to dictate to me using the threat of force and punishment that I must do just as mandated in a situation full of complexities which very frankly and even if it were a good idea is **my business and mine alone?**

What ought to be Canberra's business is that Australia is increasingly been seen internationally as a boring country 'lead' by boring people to be avoided at a tourism level in favour of more interesting places like Asia. For residents, ease of cycling is increasingly a keen indicator of the economic competitiveness of a city. How sad for Australia.

I have a lot more I could say, especially on the unintended [non-obvious] side effects of such an incredibly short sighted and insulated decision which rightly has not gathered much momentum elsewhere in the world. How sad this must be for the Australian bureaucrats who felt they were leading the world. The only obvious thing this law is achieving is civil unrest, a lot of anger in some camps and some entrenched righteousness in those that remain resolute on controlling other people's choices for reasons likely not even properly understood by themselves.

Cycling as a form of everyday transport has been paramount to my life. I for one feel completely violated by 'my government'.

Sincerely
Greg McPherson