

Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Economics
*Enforcing the secondary boycott provisions of the Trade
Practices Act 1974*

Submitted by: Pam Ahern

I wish to object to the above mentioned bill. My objections are set out below

-1 This bill is seen to stifle free speech. As an Australian I feel it is a basic right to be able to speak out against practices or trades that I consider to be unethical, cruel or immoral. I view the nature of the above mentioned bill as intimidatory and would go so far as saying it is an attempt at bullying people into silence and acceptance.

-2 Consumers should be able to make informed choices. This piece of legislation denies them such an opportunity. It protects industries and trades that, while legal may not meet the moral criteria of the consumer. Ethical consumerism is a mark of a progressive and just society; this bill is contrary to such a notion.

-3 The Bill is an insult to the intelligence of the average consumer. People should be allowed to make up their own mind as to what is and isn't acceptable to them. The above mentioned Bill denies them this, as it prevents open scrutiny and debate.

-4 The Bill provides protection to many industries, trades and practices that are unethical to many people. It shields them from public scrutiny and appeases those who are engaging practices that they would prefer remain hidden.