

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

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INTERVIEW WITH IVAN DEAN, TASMANIAN INDEPENDENT MP, ABOUT HIS PROPOSED BILL BANNING THE SALE OF TOBACCO TO ALL THOSE BORN AFTER THE YEAR 2000.

2GB, BEN FORDHAM

BEN FORDHAM: Meanwhile a Tasmanian politician is proposing an interesting way to make the next generation smoke-free. He is Independent Tasmanian MP Ivan Dean and he's put forward a bill to ban the sale of tobacco to anyone born after the year 2000. The new restrictions would commence in 2018. If the bill is successful, Tasmania would create the world's first tobacco-free generation. Ivan Dean, Tasmanian Independent MP, joins us on the line. G'day Ivan.

IVAN DEAN: Good afternoon.

BEN FORDHAM: I understand this was introduced to parliament today. How's it gone so far?

IVAN DEAN: Well, no it wasn't introduced today. It was introduced a few weeks ago and what has happened is that part way through the second reading it was adjourned because the Government had some concerns about the practicalities of the legislation and the workability of the legislation and it has been adjourned now to a committee...

BEN FORDHAM: Okay.

IVAN DEAN: ...and there is a committee currently discussing now those two points.

BEN FORDHAM: Alright. Well, can you clear up any confusion, how would it work?

IVAN DEAN: Quite simple, in fact. Anybody born after the year 2000 would not be able to be sold cigarettes or tobacco products by retailers. However, it does not stop those people born after 2000 from smoking, they can still get their tobacco products and legally and...

BEN FORDHAM: How?

IVAN DEAN: Well, they can get them through another person. Their parents could go and get them for them, older brother or older sibling born before 2000 or a friend or whatever and, of course, they can be given cigarettes too, by anybody and [indistinct] tell me if they want to do it that way...

BEN FORDHAM: Wouldn't you create therefore a second tier market there where you've got a black market for people to on-sell cigarettes to people who aren't allowed to buy them because they are born after 2000?

IVAN DEAN: No, it wouldn't create a black market because these people will still be able to lawfully acquire the product and that's the big part here and a very strong point of this legislation if it is supported. They can get them, they can get them online, of course, they can do that but why would they do that when they still acquire them through retailers and...

BEN FORDHAM: And why the year 2000? Why's that the lucky number?

IVAN DEAN: Well, we had to select one date and we thought that 2000 is the right date because it would be very simple for a retailer to look at a birth certificate and all they've got to do is look at 2000. If you have another date on there it's like it is now when person's are buying tobacco products here they've got to calculate whether the person is 18-years of age, it's a mathematical calculation they've got to make, the year 2000 would make it very, very simple indeed.

BEN FORDHAM: So, as you look ahead into the future in a perfect world, eventually Tasmania would be tobacco-free?

IVAN DEAN: That is just about right and it would take a long period of time for that to happen, quite obviously 70, 80 years but it would give retailers and everybody else sufficient time to adjust to the changes that are occurring. That's another reason it was done this way. Prohibition, straight out, plain prohibition stop smoking would not work and we know what happened in America back in the 1930s so it's not likely to go down that path and that's why we've taken the light approach that we've taken.

BEN FORDHAM: Alright. I'd love to get your thoughts on this one this afternoon on the open line, Ivan Dean, thanks for your time.

IVAN DEAN: Thank you.

BEN FORDHAM: Tasmanian Independent MP Ivan Dean.