**From:** Chris Sheehan <cj.sheehan@hotmail.com>   
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 August 2019 8:56 AM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Exposure draft legislation for an economy-wide cash payment limit of $10,000 - Feedback

To the Black Economy Taskforce,

To ensure the efficient use of finite resources governments need to implement evidence based policy.  Sadly, there is very little evidence that the cash limit of $10,000 is evidence based policy.

I believe the price of losing freedom and liberty as a citizen of Australia does not live up to the supposed benefit of "send(ing) a strong signal to the community that it is not acceptable to avoid tax and other obligations by paying with cash". Is there any evidence which the government can supply which will show that this will increase taxation revenue? Has a cost benefit analysis been completed by treasury? Have the full impacts of this legislation been thought through? Has a list of benefits of the legislation been created other than this "strong signal"?

My research into the matter shows that such limits do not fight or reduce crime, activity in the shadow economy or terrorism. According to Schneider (Restricting or abolishing cash: An Effective Instrument for Fighting the Shadow Economy, Crime and Terrorism - 2017), "Cash reflects the fundamental relation between citizens or taxpayers and state authorities. Using cash means freedom, independence and personal fulfilment for a citizen who doesn't want a state intervention when using cash. The "voices" calling for the limitation or abolishment of cash argue that tighter and more comprehensive state control over individuals' financial flows and funds will effectively fight crime, shadow economy and terrorism. But in my opinion we have weak empirical evidence".

Aside from there being no evidence that such legislation will be effective in reducing the black economy to lose freedom and liberty is not acceptable with no evidence of the benefits is unacceptable and, frankly, un-Australian. Making it a criminal offence to use your own assets gained legitimately and lawfully in the way which you please is an abhorrent loss of freedom. Imagine being imprisoned for two years (or fined $25,200) for using your own cash/assets. Also there is no guarantee that the cash limit will not decrease in the future. Currently European countries have cash limits which are substantially lower than the $10,000 limit proposed and I fear this is the direction which the government intends to go. With how the legislation has been created the government will be able to reduce the limit without the necessary changes going through parliament for discussion. This gives the people of Australia no say as to what the limit should be in the unfortunate event that it passes.

I would like my objection to this legislation to be noted and full consideration given to what sort of world we are moving towards when citizens are forcibly told by the state how they can use their property. Sadly, it is the majority of law abiding citizens who are continually punished  because of the minority who do the wrong thing. This is an utterly pathetic policy which is not in the interests of the people of Australia. It is no wonder populist movements are gaining traction throughout the world as supposed “Liberals” attempt to pass such policy which goes against individual freedoms and liberty.

Warmest regards,

Chris Sheehan