

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Helen Burnet MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question from a constituent in Mount Stuart. He says he has identified three different businesses in greater Hobart that are selling illicit tobacco. He has reported his observations to the relevant authorities and yet nothing has been done to search or shut down those businesses. He asks if there is a different standard for small businesses selling illicit tobacco. How many searches or raids have been done of small businesses since you gave authorities greater powers to target illicit tobacco earlier this year?

ANSWER:

The Department of Health's Tobacco Control Team regulates the sale and supply of smoking products in Tasmania under the smoking product provisions of the *Public Health Act 1997*.

The Team investigates reports of suspected illegal smoking product sales and takes compliance or enforcement action where appropriate. Reports are received from a range of sources, including partner agencies, Crime Stoppers, and complaints made directly to the Tobacco Control Team by phone or email.

Compliance and enforcement decisions are based on the available evidence and the level of risk identified. The size of a business does not affect how matters are assessed. Retailers found selling illicit smoking products vary in size and structure, from small independent stores to businesses linked to larger retail networks.

Since the *Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Act 2026* commenced on 22 July 2026, the Tobacco Control Team has conducted 14 targeted inspections of retail premises.

If your constituent has information about retailers suspected of selling illicit smoking products, they are encouraged to contact the Tobacco Control Team at tobacco.control@health.tas.gov.au or by calling 1800 671 738.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 17/9/26