



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Acting General Manager
Infrastructure, Competition and Consumer Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear

**Invitation to participate on the Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) for the
introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products**

The Australian Government has announced that legislation will be developed and introduced to require plain packaging for tobacco products commencing in 2012. The legislation will limit or prohibit the use of tobacco industry logos, colours, brand imagery or promotional text on tobacco product packaging.

Due to the complexity of issues regarding plain packaging of tobacco products, and the number of agencies which have an interest in this issue, an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) is proposed to ensure a whole-of-government approach to this proposal. The IDC will be chaired by the Department of Health and Ageing and representatives are being invited from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Treasury (including the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission), the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Representation is being sought at the Assistant Secretary level or higher in the first instance.

The first meeting of the IDC will take place in late October. I would therefore be grateful if you could advise me by 8 October 2010 of your agreement, or otherwise, to be part of the IDC and the name of your nominated representative. If this issue is more appropriately addressed by another part of your organisation, would you please forward this letter to the relevant area for consideration.

The contact officer in the Department of Health and Ageing is _____ whose
telephone number is _____ and email address is _____@health.gov.au.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Alj First Assistant Secretary
Mental Health and Chronic Disease Division
Department of Health and Ageing

29 September 2010