



WATCH AND CLOCKMAKERS OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Vic Division
ARBN 137 241 144

RIGHT TO REPAIR

1/ RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES BY WATCH COMPANIES

Thursday, 11 February 2021

2/ INDEPENDENT WATCHMAKERS DENIED ACCESS TO PARTS

3/ INDEPENDENT WATCHMAKERS SEARCH FOR PARTS

4/ CONSUMERS DENIED CHOICE OF REPAIRER

5/ LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

6/ FLOW ON EFFECTS

7/ THE FUTURE

8/ TRADE TRAINING

9/ STANDARDS

CONSUMER RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN WATCHMAKER.

1, The dominant Swiss watch industry, especially the luxury brands, have implemented a policy of gradually restricting parts supply and technical information to independent watchmakers.

2, Independent watchmakers, have slowly been marginalised on what brands of watches they are able to repair, as spare parts supply has been denied by these companies.

3, As a consequence, independent watchmakers have been forced to spend hours searching the internet.
"If" the parts are available, they are of inferior quality, second hand or are usually at a much higher price, which is ultimately passed onto the customer.

4, The current situation, forces consumers to return their watches to the manufacturers, even after the Guarantee has expired, often for very expensive repairs, with no other option available, eg: Independent watchmakers.

5, By creating a level playing field for independent watchmakers and making spare parts available at a reasonable cost, would have the following effect.

- It will offer consumers more choice and more cost-effective prices.
- If independent watchmakers have Confidence in being able to obtain parts and parts being available in the future, it will provide more employment opportunities (especially for apprentice training.)
- It will ensure more Government funding for Trade training could be available.
- Australian watchmakers are held in high regard, throughout the world, to ensure this continues, we need certainty for the future of our trade.

CONCLUSION:

The right for consumers to choose who they decide to repair their timepiece should be exactly that – THEIR right!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The major watch companies – both luxury and middle / low end brands are suffocating the independent watchmakers out of existence due to the lack of supply of spare parts to repair consumers watches. The highly skilled Australian Watchmaker is as competent as any around the world and comparable to any high-end watch company. We believe in working along side all watch companies for the benefit of the end consumer – but can only do this if it is an equal playing field and that parts & technical information is made available. This will ensure future health and longevity of not only the Australian Watchmaking industry, but also of the watch brands that the independent watchmakers repair / restore.

The Watch and Clockmakers of Australia - Victorian Division would be happy to provide more information and examples when necessary or as required.

Respectfully yours

Kevin Arendse
WCA – Vic Division President