

Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Sirs

Re: "On Line" Purchasing of Goods

In December last year I wrote to the Treasurer regarding the above and the fact that no GST is charged. My argument is why should anybody with a computer be able to buy goods "on line" from overseas or otherwise and not pay the GST irrespective of the so called "low value threshold", and others who do not have a computer and probably could not afford one for that matter, have to pay GST on everything they purchase, which in a lot of cases, the goods come from overseas anyway. I consider it "unfair trading". The people who buy "on line" are doing it to avoid paying GST – that's what it is all about.

In part of Mr Shorten's reply he pointed out that there was a "low value threshold" on the importation of goods into Australia, that threshold being \$1000 which was recently reviewed and it was recommended that it remains. I don't think there should be a threshold at all. The way I see it – OK there is a threshold of \$1000 on importation of goods. Those goods in turn are taken up by perhaps one of the bargain shops and offered to the public in their shops at a cheap price, but when one goes to buy the item one pays a GST on it, but if it is sold "on line" there is no GST. Is that fair trading?

With technology running along so fast – I think the Government should "clamp down" on this form of purchasing goods before it gets out of hand and charge GST on goods whatever way they are purchased.

The Employers in the Retail Trade have the "upper hand" and if they are losing business they will sack staff – there is no doubt about it.

This is my submission to your enquiry which began in February this year I understand. This was suggested by Mr Shorten.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) S Bennett