

Murray and Denise Golding

Store Owners

IGA Xpress

To Whom It May Concern

Response to Harper Competition Policy Review

My wife and I own and operate a 24 hour 7 day a week 365 day a year IGA Xpress Convenience Store business in Kangaroo Point Brisbane.

We have owned our small business for eight and a half years now. We employ 20 staff some permanent and mostly casuals in a variety of age groups.

Our Brisbane retail store is located only two kilometres from the CBD and is the hub of the Kangaroo Point community which it has serviced for nearly 40 years now. We are well supported by our local community and beyond offering discounted prices to the Queensland Police Queensland Fire Brigades, Hospital Staff and Taxi drivers just to name a few.

Unlike the major chain stores in return for their loyalty to us we engage the services of local accountant's solicitors, trades people, cleaners and IT Company's for our business support services. This local business engagement is extremely important for the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community. These interactive activities and productivities are vital ingredients for the sustainability of our local community and good for Australia and all Australians.

Increasing market power and dominance of the two major chains is putting at risk real competition and consumer choice. We support the Harper Review recommendation to introduce an "effects test". The "effects test" will protect competition and long term consumer choice by deterring big business's from crowding out and destroying small businesses, by misusing their market power, that substantially lessens competition. We would however like the original wording in S 46 to remain unchanged so that anti competitive behaviours are clearly captured. Anti competitive behaviours include predatory pricing, predatory capacity and anti-competitive price discrimination and must be prohibited.

We disagree with the principle that more floor space and more entrants into the market equals more competition. The major chains with the most capital resources will crowd out small family owned businesses like ours with limited resources thus reducing consumer choice and lessening competition.

We also request the current restrictions on trading hours are retained.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. The future of all Australian small businesses including our own, is totally dependent on the strong recommendations for Competition Law reform as recommended by the Harper Competition Policy Review Panel and the will and support of our politicians to recognize that Australia is not just about big business, it's about a balance between large and small business competing on a level playing field.

Yours sincerely

Murray and Denise Golding