

Aviation Security Screening Review
Office of Transport Security
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To Members of the Screening Review Advisory Group

This review is a welcome opportunity to comment on the airport security systems that we all endure when travelling. Whilst airport screening is now generally accepted as part of the travel experience, rationalising the list of prohibited items would dramatically reduce passenger frustration as well as minimising costs by reducing the quantity of checked-in luggage.

With reference to the Consultation Paper, **question 3** definitely requires attention:

1. Low risk items (eg knitting needles and crochet hooks) that are currently prohibited in Australia do not attract the same attention in the USA, Canada, UK or EC.
2. These items, which are banned on domestic Australian flights, are freely admitted on international flights into Australia.
3. Prohibiting these items induces extra stress in the knitting public by removing their very means of de-stressing during waiting times (the yoga-like relaxation produced by handcrafts).
4. There are many items permitted on board Australian aircraft that could prove to be much more dangerous such as plastic cutlery, pens, pencils, safety pins.
5. Currently, knitters carrying knitting needles through to their destination must check in their baggage. A bag that is small enough for cabin luggage increases costs when it must be sent to the baggage hold.
6. By removing the illegality of knitting needles and crochet hooks, the screening inspectors could focus more clearly on items that are actually dangerous.

As a member of the knitting and crocheting community, I respectfully ask that you consider my request.

Yours sincerely