



## ***Curing Affluenza***

***How to Buy Less Stuff and Save the World***

Richard Denniss

(Black Inc: Carlton, Vic, 2017)

In this just-released book, Richard Denniss, who is Chief Economist of The Australia Institute, looks at a critical global issue, and challenges us to look further than policy fixes to examine the cultural assumptions that inform and re-enforce our behaviours. He diagnoses the “disease” behind exploitation and waste as affluenza, which he defines as “*that strange desire we feel to spend money we don’t have to buy things we don’t need to impress people we don’t know . . .*”

Richard Denniss shows we must distinguish between consumerism, the love of buying things, which is undeniably harmful to us and the planet, and materialism, the love of things, which can in fact be beneficial. We should cherish the things we own – preserve them, repair them, and then gift or sell them when we no longer need them. We must foster new ways of thinking and acting that do not squander limited resources, and which support the things we value most: vibrant communities and rich experiences.

At once a lucid explanation of a critical global issue and a stirring call to action, *Curing Affluenza* will change the way you think about your place in the world.

Included are special contributions from Bob Brown, Kumi Naidoo, Marilyn Waring, John Quiggin, Leanne Minshull, Jim Stanford, Bill McKibben and Craig Bennett.

While some of us might go even further in our analyses of root causes, this book should appeal to those willing to be critical of current economic assumptions.

This book can be borrowed from [earthlink@mercy.org.au](mailto:earthlink@mercy.org.au)

for the cost of the postage.